PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 478 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
23 June 2008—10 July 2008

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP, June 2007)

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP
Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP
Secretary of State for Health—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP
Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality—The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt. Hon. James Purnell, MP
Secretary of State for Transport—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Hoon, MP
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families—The Rt. Hon. Ed Balls, MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt. Hon. Edward Miliband, MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport—The Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland—The Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward, MP
Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy, MP
Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Ashton of Upholland
Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper, MP
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills—The Rt. Hon. John Denham, MP
Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentleman-at-Arms—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP

Ministers of State—
- Minister for Trade Promotion and Investment—The Lord Jones of Birmingham
- Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs—Pat McFadden, Esq, MP
- Minister for Energy—Malcolm Wicks, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
- Gareth Thomas, Esq, MP
- The Baroness Vadera

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt. Hon. Edward Miliband, MP

Minister of State—
- Minister for the Olympics and London (Paymaster General)—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP*

Parliamentary Secretaries—
- Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)*
- Tom Watson, Esq, MP

Children, Schools and Families—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Ed Balls, MP

Ministers of State—
- Minister for Schools and Learners—Jim Knight, MP
- Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Minister for the North West)—The Rt. Hon. Beverley Hughes, MP*

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
- Kevin Brennan, MP
- The Lord Adonis

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP

Ministers of State—
  Minister for Local Government—John Healey, MP
  Minister for Housing—The Rt. Hon. Caroline Flint, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  The Baroness Andrews, OBE
  Parmjit Dhanda, Esq, MP
  Iain Wright, Esq, MP

Culture, Media and Sport—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, MP

Minister of State—
  The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge, MP, MBE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—
  Gerry Sutcliffe, Esq, MP

Defence—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP

Minister of State—
  Minister for the Armed Forces—The Rt. Hon. Bob Ainsworth, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Taylor of Bolton
  Derek Twigg, MP

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP

Ministers of State—
  Minister for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rooker
  Minister for the Environment—Phil Woolas, Esq, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Joan Ruddock, MP
  Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)*

Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP

Ministers of State—
  Minister for Europe—Jim Murphy, Esq, MP
  Minister for the Middle East—Dr. Kim Howells, MP
  The Rt. Hon. The Lord Malloch-Brown, KCMG
  The Lord Jones of Birmingham

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—
  Meg Munn, MP

Government Equalities Office—

Minister for Women and Equality—The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP

Minister for Equality—Barbara Follett, MP*

Health—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP

Ministers of State—
  The Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP
  Ben Bradshaw, Esq, MP (Minister for the South West)*

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  The Lord Darzi of Denham, KBE
  Ann Keen, MP
  Ivan Lewis, Esq, MP

Home Office—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP

Ministers of State—
  Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing—The Rt. Hon. Tony McNulty, Esq, MP
  Minister for Borders and Immigration—Liam Byrne, Esq, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)*

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Vernon Coaker, Esq, MP
  Admiral The Lord West of Spithead, GCB DSC
  Meg Hillier, MP

Innovation, Universities and Skills—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. John Denham, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education—Bill Rammell, MP
    Minister for Science and Innovation—Ian Pearson, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    David Lammy, Esq, MP
    The Baroness Morgan of Drefelin

International Development—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Gareth Thomas, Esq, MP
    Gillian Merron, MP
    Shahid Malik, Esq, MP

Justice—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
    The Rt. Hon. David Hanson, Esq, MP
    Michael Wills, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    The Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, OBE
    Bridget Prentice, MP
    Maria Eagle, MP

Law Officers' Department—

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Scotland of Asthal, QC

SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Vera Baird, QC, MP

ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Lord Davidson of Glen Cova, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, LORD PRIVY SEAL AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITY—The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—Helen Goodman, MP

Northern Ireland—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—
    Paul Goggins, MP

Privy Council Office—

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Ashton of Upholland

Scotland Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—
    David Cairns, MP

Transport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—
    The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)*

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Jim Fitzpatrick, MP
    Tom Harris, Esq, MP

Treasury—

PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP

CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Yvette Cooper, MP

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Jane Kennedy, MP

EXCHEQUER SECRETARY—Angela Eagle, MP

ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Kitty Ussher, MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Hoon, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—Liam Byrne, Esq, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)*

LORDS COMMISSIONERS—
    Frank Roy, Esq, MP
    Steve McCabe, MP
    Alan Campbell, Esq, MP
    Dave Watts, Esq, MP
    Claire Ward, MP

ASSISTANT WHIPS
- Siobhain McDonagh, MP
- Michael Foster, Esq, MP
- Tony Cunningham, MP
- Alison Seabeck, MP
- Ms Diana R. Johnson, MP
- Mark Tami, MP
- Sadiq Khan, Esq, MP
- Bob Blizzard, Esq, MPs
- Wayne David, Esq, MP

Wales Office

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
- Huw Irranca-Davies, MP

Work and Pensions

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. James Purnell, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
- Minister for Pensions Reform—Mike O'Brien, Esq, QC, MP
- Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
- Anne McGuire, MP
- James Plaskitt, Esq, MP
- The Lord McKenzie of Luton
- Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England and Minister for Equality)*

Her Majesty's Household

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt. Hon. The Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Duke of Abercorn, KG

MASTER OF THE HORSE—The Lord Vestey

TREASURER—The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East of England)*

COMPTROLLER—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—Liz Blackman, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS—The Rt. Hon The Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Davies of Oldham

LORDS IN WAITING—The Lord Bassam of Brighton, The Lord Bach, The Lord Tunnicliffe

BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Crawley, The Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, The Baroness Thornton

**Regional Ministers. Full list:*

Ministers for the English Regions
- Ben Bradshaw, Esq, MP (Minister for the South West)
- The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East of England)
- Liam Byrne, Esq, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)
- Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
- Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
- The Rt. Hon. Beverley Hughes, MP (Minister for the North West)
- The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for the Olympics and London)
- Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
- The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker—The Rt. Hon. Michael J. Martin, MP

Chairman of Ways and Means—The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP

First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Mrs. Sylvia Heal, MP

Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sir Michael Lord, MP

Chairmen's Panel
David Amess, Janet Anderson, Peter Atkinson, Hugh Bayley, Anne Begg, Joe Benton, John Bercow, Sir John Butterfill, Martin Caton, Christopher Chope, Frank Cook, John Cummings, Janet Dean, Roger Gale, Mike Hancock, Jim Hood, Joan Humble, Eric Illsley, Martyn Jones, Robert Key, Dr. William McCrea, Eric Martlew, Edward O'Hara, Bill Olner, Greg Pope, David Taylor, Joan Walley, Mike Weir, Hywel Williams, David Wilshire, Ann Winterton, Sir Nicholas Winterton

House of Commons Commission
The Rt. Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell, MP, The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt. Hon. David Maclean, MP, The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP

Secretary of the Commission—Andrew Kennon

Assistant Secretary—Jenny McCullough

Administration Estimate Audit Committee
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP (Chairman), Clive Betts, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, Sir Thomas Legg, KCB, QC, David Taylor, FCA

Secretary of the Audit Committee—Tracey Garratty

Management Board
Malcolm Jack, PhD (Chief Executive), Douglas Millar, CB (Director General, Chamber and Committee Services), John Pullinger (Director General, Information Services), Andrew Walker (Director General, Resources), John Borley, CB (Director General, Facilities), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT) (External Member)

Secretary of the Management Board—Philippa Helme

Speaker's Secretary—Angus Sinclair

Speaker's Counsel—John Vaux

Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

23 June 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 June 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 19 and 20 June

Foreign Ministers discussed the agenda of the June European Council, including freedom, security and justice; the policy implications of high global food and oil prices; economic, social and environmental issues; the Western Balkans (covered separately below); and external relations issues, in particular the European neighbourhood policy; and the millennium development goals (MDGs).

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary broadly supported the draft European Council conclusions on food and oil prices, and called for the reiteration of commitments on carbon capture and storage. He also supported the text on MDGs, but asked that it include both the full text of the overseas development aid targets agreed at the Development Council in May and language supporting the EU Agenda for Action on the MDGs.

Ministers discussed follow-up to the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty. I refer hon. Members to the statement that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made to the House on 16 June.

Foreign Ministers will meet at the European Council. The agenda will cover Kosovo, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Sudan, China/Tibet and transatlantic relations.

Presentation of the draft three-Presidency 18-month programme

France, Sweden and the Czech Republic presented a programme setting out the joint priorities for their presidencies, running from July 2008 to the end of 2009. These priorities included reassessing the EU budget; climate change; ensuring secure, competitive and environmentally sustainable energy; implementing the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth; promoting the EU's competitiveness; sustainable development; reviewing the common agricultural policy; developing an area of freedom, security and justice; enlargement; the Western Balkans; strengthening relations with the EU's eastern and southern neighbours; the relationship with Africa; the European security strategy and meeting the MDGs. The Government broadly support the programme.

External Relations

Western Balkans

Ministers agreed Council conclusions, which the Government support, reiterating the EU's commitment to the Western Balkans' European perspective and encouraging the countries of that region to meet the necessary conditions. The Council also condemned the violence during the 1 June elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and regretted shortcomings in the conduct of those elections. It called on the authorities to investigate these incidents and take appropriate action.

Ministers also discussed draft European Council conclusions on a range of Western Balkans issues and signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), which the Government welcome. The Council encouraged BiH to sustain the reform momentum by implementing the agreement and the priorities set out in its European partnership. Ministers further welcomed visa liberalisation roadmaps setting out requirements for Western Balkans countries working towards visa-free travel to the Schengen area. These do not impact on the UK, which is not a party to the Schengen agreement.

Lack of time prevented discussion of Kosovo, which Foreign Ministers agreed to cover at the June European Council.

Middle East

Ministers discussed the state of play on the middle east peace process and the EU-Israel Association Council, which met in the margins of the GAERC.

Great Lakes

Ministers approved without discussion conclusions that acknowledged the progress made towards peace in the region in recent months; and reaffirmed the EU's contribution to reform of the security sector in DRC through two ESDP missions and commission activity, which will help protect civilians by curtailing human rights abuses, upholding respect for the rule of law and ending the culture of impunity.

Sudan

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Ocampo briefed Ministers on the ICC's activities concerning Sudan. Ministers adopted Council conclusions that reiterated the EU's support for the work of the ICC, deeply deplored the Government of Sudan's continued non co-operation with the ICC and noted that the Council stood ready to consider measures against individuals responsible for not co-operating, should the obligation under the UNSC Resolution 1593 on co-operation with the ICC continue to be disregarded. The conclusions expressed concern over the recent fighting between north and south Sudan armed forces in the disputed border region of Abyei, welcomed the Abyei Roadmap agreed on 8 June, and called on both sides to fulfil the obligations under the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA). The conclusions condemned the justice and equality movement's attack on Omdurman on 10 May; reiterated the Council's readiness to take further measures against any party impeding UNAMID, obstructing humanitarian access, or failing to constructively engage in the Darfur political process; and called on the Governments of Chad and Sudan to adhere to the Dakar agreement.

Somalia

Ministers approved without discussion Council conclusions that reaffirmed the EU's commitment to a comprehensive and sustainable approach for a settlement of the Somali crisis; reiterated the urgent need to continue the momentum of an inclusive dialogue for a sustained political solution; welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 1816 of 2 June 2008 on acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia; and commissioned work on options for implementing all commitments contained in the Council conclusions of 26 May, as well as contributing to the implementation of UNSCR 1816.

Zimbabwe

Lack of time prevented discussion of Zimbabwe, which Foreign Ministers will now cover at the June European Council.

Iran

High Representative Solana briefed Ministers on his visit to Tehran on 14 and 15 June, during which he presented an updated package of proposals to the Iranian authorities, on behalf of France, Germany, the UK, China, Russia, the US and the EU.

China

Ministers briefly discussed dialogue between the Chinese authorities and representatives of the Dalai Lama, welcoming the renewal of talks.

Georgia

High Representative Solana briefed Ministers on his visit to Georgia on 5 and 6 June, where he discussed Abkhazia. Ministers broadly agreed that the EU should make a practical contribution to confidence-building measures.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (Carlile Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am today laying before the House the report on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 in 2007 completed by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and have considered his recommendations fully. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant Departments and agencies, I am today also laying before the House my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations.

Copies of both Lord Carlile's report and the response will be available in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 June 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Juvenile Secure Settings (Restraint)

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): On 8 October 2007 the Minister of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), and I announced the appointment of Andrew Williamson CBE and Peter Smallridge CBE as independent co-chairs of the review of restraint in juvenile secure settings. The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have joint responsibility for the review.

I am pleased to announce that the chairs reported their recommendations to my right hon. Friend and I on 20 June. We welcome their report and will give its recommendations careful consideration. We intend to publish the chairs' full report alongside our response to its recommendations by the end of October.

Qualifications Regulation: Next Steps

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In December, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and I published a consultation document, "Confidence in Standards: Regulating and Developing Qualifications and Assessment" (Cm 7281). We detailed plans for the creation of a new independent regulator of qualifications and tests for England—the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), and the evolution of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) into a development agency for curriculum, assessment and qualifications.

The consultation finished in March, and in a written ministerial statement to the House on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 50-51WS, I confirmed that the proposals had been generally well received and that we were therefore proceeding with these reforms including through bringing forward new legislation. We also confirmed that Ofqual was about to be set up in an interim form, using the QCA's current regulatory powers. Ofqual was duly launched in its interim form on 8 April.

We have today published a further progress report, including a summary of the responses to the consultation "Confidence in Standards: Regulating and Developing Qualifications and Assessment"—next steps and confirmation of how in the light of comments we have decided to proceed. I have placed a copy in the House Library.

Ofqual will be a credible and clearly independent guardian of standards across the assessment and qualifications system, securing confidence in that system. Subject to legislation, it will become a regulator with even stronger powers to safeguard standards. The QCA, in its new form as the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) will be able to focus on advising Ministers on the curriculum and on developing and delivering qualifications and assessments. These reforms have been widely welcomed, including in the responses to the consultation. They are the right thing to do and all will benefit—employers, higher education, the many and various players involved in delivering qualifications and—most important of all—the learners of all ages.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-domestic Rating Valuations (Decapitalisation Rate)

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I have today published a consultation paper and draft regulatory impact assessment to seek views on the use of the 'contractor's method of valuation' in non-domestic rating valuations in England for the 2010 revaluation.

Rateable values are assessed independently by the Valuation Office Agency and are generally based on annual rental values. Most are assessed having regard to actual rents but such evidence is not always available. In about 11 per cent. of cases, rateable value is based on capital values—found from the cost of construction and land values—which is then 'decapitalised' to give an annual value representing the rateable value. This is called the 'contractor's method of valuation'. The decapitalisation rate used in the valuation is prescribed by the Government.

The consultation paper I have published today contains proposals:

to continue to prescribe the decapitalisation rate for the 2010 revaluation;

to retain the existing groupings of properties subject to each of the two decapitalisation rates; and

on the methodology to be used to determine the decapitalisation rates.

We will make final decisions on these proposals and, in the event of continued prescription, determine the decapitalisation rates in the autumn of this year in light of the consultation responses.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decapitalisationrate

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I and my hon. Friend the Minister for marine, landscape and rural affairs, the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw), will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. The three devolved Administration Ministers Richard Lochead, Elin Jones and Michelle Gildernew will also be attending.

There is only one substantive item for discussion on this month's agenda relating to agriculture, which concerns the common agricultural policy health check. The codecision proposal updating the rules on placing plant protection products on the market will be adopted by the Council without need for further discussion (as an 'A' point).

A revision of the 2004 cotton reforms will also be adopted as an 'A' point. We shall be voting against this proposal which we feel is insufficiently ambitious at a time of further CAP reform.

With regard to fisheries, the Council is due to agree the proposal on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. A further proposal for fishing authorisations is also due to be agreed. In addition, there will be a discussion on the Mauritania fishery agreement but no adoption as the opinion of the European Parliament is still awaited.

The following issues will be raised under any other business:

The Agriculture Commissioner will provide the usual update on the WTO-DDA negotiations.

France will be tabling a memorandum for higher standards for imports of food products into the EU.

Belgium will be raising four issues relating to the high price of animal feed, the state aid de minimis rules, BSE testing and bluetongue.

Latvia will be tabling a point on border veterinary controls.

The Presidency will present an introductory paper and there will be a substantive paper agreed by France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Malta for discussion on the effects of fuel price increases on the fishing industry.

JUSTICE

Corston Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): On 6 December 2007 the Minister of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), published a Command Paper—"The Government's Response to the Report by Baroness Corston of a Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System" (Cm 7261).

The paper detailed how the Government planned to respond to the 43 recommendations made by my right hon. and noble Friend Baroness Corston in her report. I am today updating Parliament and publishing a report on progress made over the last six months in taking forward the Government's response, detailing the Government's continued commitment to bring about real improvements for women offenders in both custody and the community. I have placed copies of the progress report in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement240608b.htm

Since being appointed as the Ministerial Champion For Women and Criminal Justice matters, I am pleased to report the significant actions which we have been able to deliver against the commitments made in the Government's response.

In respect of the recommendation that the number of strip searches in women's prisons be reduced, it has been usual practice for women prisoners to be strip searched on leaving and entering prison. This can be intimidating and distressing, particularly for women who have experienced domestic violence or sexual abuse. Pilots are now running in five women's prisons testing a new kind of search which does not require the removal of underwear unless there is intelligence or suspicion at any stage that an item is concealed in the underwear. The pilots are going well and the impact of the new model Women's Full Search is now being evaluated. The early results are encouraging and I am confident that new arrangements will shortly be in place in all women's prisons.

The Ministry of Justice will issue guidance to probation areas on making greater use of capacity in the current female approved premises. Areas will be encouraged to consider placing more women in them, who may not necessarily present a high risk of harm to others, but who could benefit from the supervised, structured environment and the support that an approved premises can provide. I expect this guidance will be issued in July 2008.

A site in Bristol has been identified for piloting an integrated approach providing access to a range of community based services and residential facilities. The target group will be women involved in the Criminal Justice System, particularly those who may have a range of vulnerabilities or who may be at risk of ending up in custody. The project will be delivered in partnership with other agencies.

The Ministry of Justice has supported financially the establishment and continued development of the women's Turnaround Project in Wales. The project clearly demonstrates the value of multi-agency, multi-sector work and has rapidly achieved an excellent reputation for working with women offenders and women at risk of offending.

The Ministry of Justice is looking at diverting women offenders from custody into community provision where that is appropriate. Above and beyond Baroness Corston's recommendations more proactive steps need to be taken to reduce the number of women going into custody unnecessarily. Options will be developed over the coming months to create a deliverable plan of action to achieve this.

The Government aim to make better use of the conditional cautioning scheme for women as an alternative to court proceedings. National roll-out of this scheme has just been completed and provides offenders who have admitted committing a low-level offence the opportunity to be diverted from court by accepting a caution with conditions. Consideration is being given to testing out a rehabilitative condition for women as part of their caution. In this instance, the main condition will be to attend a women's centre for assessment. This will link with the Together Women Programme sites to test the benefit of combining a caution with access to the supportive wrap around services available.

A short project was set up to consider the recommendation advocating small custodial units for 20 to 30 women. The Government accept the principles Baroness Corston developed, but the findings of the project identified significant issues that suggest standalone units of that size are neither feasible nor desirable. In addition, it would not be possible to deliver the range of services required to meet the full range of women's specific needs. The design of a new 77-place wing at HMP Bronzefield (due for completion in 2009) will provide an opportunity to implement, test and embed a new approach to the physical environment and delivery of regimes that could test out these principles.

The Ministry of Justice "Gender Equality Scheme" was published on 1 April 2008. The scheme sets out what is being done to promote gender equality and eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment in all our business areas, decisions and activities. The principles in the "Gender Equality Scheme" underpin everything we do as a Department and will ensure fair and equal treatment for all.

On 30 May 2008 the Ministry of Justice published a "National Service Framework for Women Offenders". The framework clearly lays out the Government's strategy for addressing the needs of women offenders, and represents a significant step forward in the Government's efforts to make the delivery of Baroness Corston's recommendations a reality.

On 30 May 2008 the Ministry of Justice also published the "Offender Management Guide to Working with Women". The guide details some of the issues, challenges, and opportunities that need to be considered when working with women offenders at all stages of the offender process, including the importance of promoting and developing community-based alternatives to custody.

The Prison Service has introduced a set of gender-specific standards for women's prisons. The standards, which were published on 28 April 2008 in a new Prison Service Order (4800), will ensure that prisons provide regimes, programmes and support that are sensitive and appropriate for women.

A cross-Departmental Criminal Justice women's unit has been established with a senior civil servant appointed to head up the unit. This will manage and co-ordinate the work on Corston across all relevant Departments.

The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on reducing reoffending now provides overall governance, ensuring cross-Departmental commitment to the actions required. I have convened a sub-group to the IMG to drive the work forward and monitor progress against our commitments. Members include the Solicitor-General and Ministers from the Government Equalities Office, Department of Health, Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Home Office.

Another key commitment is to improve health and social care services for women in contact with the Criminal Justice System. Health-related commissioning guidance specifically focused on services for women and their families will be developed by December 2008. The Government will also have reviewed and set out recommendations for improvements in the health care provided to women in police custody, in court cells and during transportation to prison.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues and officials in their Departments who have contributed to the progress made and I look forward to continuing working with them, and our non-Government stakeholders, in taking forward these commitments further. As the Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice matters, I will continue to make sure that everything possible is done to ensure that we have a system that is properly responsive to the needs and characteristics of women.

Weekend Voting

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The right to vote is the basis of our political system. Strengthening our democracy requires the removal of barriers to the exercise of that right. So the system for delivering elections must be accessible and responsive to the needs of voters. And accessibility must always go hand in hand with the security of the system: citizens need to be confident that their vote will count, and that elections are fair and free from fraud. It is the twin principles of accessibility and integrity that underpin the legitimacy of our electoral process.

In "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper, the Government set out a programme of work to reinvigorate our democracy and give citizens the means to participate in decision making at every level. As part of this programme, the Government committed to consult on moving elections to the weekend as a means of making voting more accessible, and so potentially raising levels of turnout.

To meet that commitment, I am today publishing a consultation paper on Election Day (Cm 7334). The paper invites views on the merits of moving the voting day for parliamentary and European parliamentary elections, and local elections in England and Wales, from the traditional Thursday to the weekend; and on the best way to do this. The paper sets out a range of issues that need to be taken into account, including practical considerations and the potential cost of holding elections at the weekend, and invites views and evidence. It makes clear that, in the event that elections were moved to the weekend, this would need to be implemented in a way which did not interfere with religious observance.

This consultation paper marks the start of a process of engagement on Election Day. The Government are committed to exploring new forms of engagement to encourage greater public involvement in policy making. The Government believe that the question of when elections should be held is an issue that would benefit from this new approach. So the consultation exercise I am launching today will be followed by a citizens' summit at which a cross-section of the public will be invited to consider the barriers to voting and the options available to improve participation levels.

A citizens' summit involves bringing together a broad sample of the public to deliberate and discuss issues of national policy. The Government believe that such techniques can improve the national policy-making process by introducing opportunities for a deliberative dialogue between Government and the public and encouraging people to debate policy options between themselves, to ask questions and to make informed recommendations to their representatives in Government and Parliament. Participants at this summit will be asked to deliberate on the issues, including those raised in the consultation and to make a recommendation on whether elections should be held at the weekend. The Government will respond to the consultation exercise after the summit with its view about the intended way forward.

I also intend that the summit should discuss more widely the factors that motivate people to exercise their right to vote. The sense of a civic duty to vote has eroded over the last 50 years. It is vital for the health of our democracy that we better understand the reasons for this, and what we can do to reverse the trend of falling turnout.

The consultation process on Election Day is an opportunity for a wide debate about how the democratic process can be shaped to the needs and preferences of citizens. But, whatever changes are made, we also need to ensure that the integrity of the electoral process is protected and enhanced.

Government have taken a range of steps in recent years both to modernise the registration process and to improve access to postal voting with all-party support.

Alongside this, the Government have put in place a range of measures to combat attempts to defraud the registration and postal vote processes, including in the Electoral Administration Act 2006. Electoral registration officers have powers to compare registration data with records held by local authorities. Voters now have to supply date of birth and signature which can be cross-checked when they apply for a postal ballot, and we have given administrators more time to carry out checks.

There is no evidence that overall levels of fraud are increasing. But Government take the integrity of the electoral process seriously: any fraud is unacceptable, and we are examining how, consistent with the need to ensure that citizens can access their right to vote, the security of both the registration system and the postal vote process could be strengthened. In that context, we plan to consult on issues relating to the security of the ballot. Any change would have to take account of the need to ensure that we do not act to exclude citizens from the democratic process, and of the significant resource commitment that would be required to deliver reform.

The Government are committed to change to the electoral system in a balanced way so that participation increases, and the security and accuracy of the ballot is protected. I hope that all those with an interest in the health of our democratic process will consider and respond to the proposals that I am launching for consultation today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I am pleased to announce today the appointment of eight new Commissioners, including Deputy Chief Commissioner, to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

The appointments follow an open process based on merit. The terms of appointment of the eight outgoing Commissioners, Anne O'Reilly (Deputy Chief Commissioner), Annie Campbell, Brian Carlin, Eileen Evason, Tom Haverty, Michael Rae, Audrey Simpson and Derick Wilson end on 31 July 2008. They will be replaced by Jane Morrice (Deputy Chief Commissioner); Stella Burnside; Kit Chivers; Patricia Feeney; Charo Lanao-Madden; David Stevens; Norman Trotter; and Murray Watt, who will take up post on 1 August 2008, joining eight existing Commissioners.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland is a key institution of the Belfast agreement and plays a vital role in protecting and promoting equality for all members of our diverse society in Northern Ireland. In am grateful for the commitment and expertise that the departing Commissioners have brought to the Commission.

I am confident that the new appointees will continue their good work and ensure that the Commission continues to carry out its important duties effectively.

SCOTLAND

Gould Report

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Des Browne): In seeking to ensure that the events that led to spoiling of a significant number of ballot papers in the election to the Scottish Parliament in 2007 do not happen again, my overriding priority has been to put the interests of the voter first.

On 23 October last year, Ron Gould reported on his review of the 2007 Scottish elections. I said to Parliament then that the Gould report was a valuable contribution to the analysis of what went wrong last May, and I gave a commitment to provide a full response to the report once I had heard the views of a wide range of interests through consultation and debate. The Scotland Office initiated that consultation through our paper, "Sorting the Ballot". Meetings were held with electoral administrators, political parties and the Electoral Commission to hear their views on Gould's recommendations. In addition, a number of focus groups were held with voters across Scotland. I also welcomed the move from the Scottish Affairs Committee to conduct their own review of the Gould report and its recommendations. The Committee reported on 18 May and its recommendations have been taken into account when considering the Government's response. I shall be responding separately to the Committee's report later today.

Last October, I commended the Gould report to the House. It offered proposals to *all* stakeholders involved in the administration of elections in Scotland. Proposals that aim to improve the way in which Scottish elections are administered and suggest good practices which could inform the running of other elections in the UK. It is my view that all political parties should work together to build on the proposals in the Gould report in order to improve the election process in Scotland. Elections belong to the people not individual political parties, and that is why we must work for consensus across the board and to ensure that the Scottish voter is put first.

One of the most important steps to put the needs of the voter first is the decoupling of the local government from the Scottish Parliament elections. The decision to combine the elections was taken by the Scottish Parliament. Decoupling will go a long way to delivering the simplicity and clarity that Ron Gould has identified as being needed for elections taking place in Scotland. After the May 2007 elections, when voters were asked by an independent researcher to choose the top priority for the next election, the most popular option was having the Scottish Parliament and local government elections on separate days. This was confirmed by the focus groups referred to above, where the most frequently heard comments asked why there were two elections using different processes on the same day and why could not they be held on different days. Responsibility for Scottish local authority elections rests with the Scottish Executive. I therefore welcome the Scottish Executive's consultation, which was launched on 3 March, on how they might decouple the local government elections from the Parliament elections. It will benefit all those involved with elections if this proceeds.

In my statement to the House last October, I accepted outright five recommendations which, in my view, could make a significant improvement to the running of elections to the Scottish Parliament. These were: a reversion to manual counting; separate ballot papers for the constituency and regional votes; a longer period between close of nominations and the date of election; a six month cut-off for changes in the law governing the conduct of elections; and consolidation of the legislation on the conduct of Scottish Parliament elections. I am pleased to say that the results of our consultation confirm that these five recommendations have overwhelming support. I would like now to set out my response to the other Gould recommendations on which we consulted.

First, on ballot paper design, the Government accept the Gould recommendation that registered party names should appear first on the regional ballot paper, followed by party description. It is important that voters know which party it is that they are voting for and that they know they are voting for a party rather than an individual in the regional vote. The focus groups in particular highlighted that voters prefer the certainty of the registered party names which are less liable to change than the party descriptors.

While we respect the intention of Gould's further recommendation that ballot paper ordering should be determined by lottery, a strong case has been made against such a move on the grounds of voter confusion, particularly for those with learning difficulties. There was strong support amongst the focus groups and others consulted for retaining alphabetical order on the grounds that that is what people are used to and it is easier to find the candidate or party of the voter's choice.

On the timing of the count, I have decided that there should be no change from the current arrangements—that is, that the count should take place as soon as practicable after the polls close. There was no direct link between the timing of the count and the problems that occurred last May. Convention is that the count takes place overnight as the ballot boxes come in and, as the focus groups showed, voters enjoy the experience of hearing the results as soon as possible. Voters and candidates should wait no longer to know the results than is necessary to count the ballot papers and verify the result. The final decision on when it is practicable that the count should take place, given local circumstances, though, will remain a matter for individual returning officers.

I have considered the question of whether a chief returning officer (CRO) should be appointed with full responsibility for administering all elections. The Gould report sets out a range of functions that a CRO might fulfil. However the views that have been expressed across the political spectrum and by administrators are not conclusive. A considered examination of the structures required for administering elections in Scotland is necessary, and I note that the Electoral Commission has taken the initiative in leading on an investigation on this subject and their report is expected later this summer. The Scottish Executive has also indicated that they propose to consult on the detailed options for a CRO for local authority elections later this year. Given the need to ensure a consistent approach across elections in the potential role of a CRO, and the ongoing consideration that is being given to this issue I have decided that the Government should work closely with colleagues across Government, the Electoral Commission and the Scottish Executive in examining this in more detail before a final decision is reached.

This will take time, as any change would require primary and secondary legislation. I am very conscious of the need to make decisions now for the elections in 2011 so that there is no uncertainty about how these elections will be run. I am also conscious of the need for a period of stability in order to rebuild confidence in our electoral processes. I do not think it practical therefore to make decisions on a CRO to enable such a person to be in place for the 2011 election. That is not to rule out the concept, but rather to ensure sufficient time is available to give the matter the consideration it deserves.

The recommendations that we have already accepted, together with the proposed decoupling of elections, will address the issues of accountability that underpinned the reasons why Gould recommended a CRO. These steps will ensure there is greater clarity in the election process. I accept the recommendation of the all-party Scottish Affairs Select Committee that there is no compelling case to change the present legislative arrangements for elections to the Scottish Parliament. However, accepting Gould's view that co-ordination of elections can be improved, I propose to establish, on a non-statutory basis, an elections policy and planning group for the Scottish Parliament elections in 2011. This group, chaired, for the first time, by a senior returning officer, will report to me on a regular basis on progress with the commitments that I have set out today.

Gould also raised commonly voiced concerns about consistency and professionalism amongst electoral administrators. This, to a large degree, is being addressed by the work of the Electoral Commission in developing performance standards. As this is a new monitoring regime for electoral administrators, once it has been introduced we will need to give it time to establish itself, before reviewing whether any further action is required.

By the end of this year, as Gould recommended, work will have begun on consolidating the legislation that governs the Scottish Parliament elections into a single statutory instrument; we have committed to achieving this at least six months before the 2011 elections are held.

Our key task now is to rebuild the confidence of voters in casting their vote. The steps I have set out today are, I believe, the right ones to take to ensure that the problems of the 2007 election never happen again.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 June 2008

TREASURY

UK/France Double Taxation Convention

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): A new Double Taxation Convention with France was signed on 19 June 2008. After signature, the text of the Convention was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text of the Convention will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Gaming Machines

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): In recent months I have received a range of representations from trade bodies in the gambling industry seeking changes to the regulatory regime for gaming machines established by the Gambling Act 2005 ("The Act"), and implemented by secondary legislation from 1 September 2007.

Through the Act, we have established a comprehensive new system of regulation for gaming machines, with consumer protection at its heart. Our No. 1 priority remains to protect the public, and I have considered the representations we have received with this uppermost in mind.

A number of hon. Members have expressed support for the campaigns led by the Bingo Association and the British Amusement Catering Trades Association (BACTA). I have also received representations from the British Beer and Pub Association, the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions and the British Casino Association. I wish now to report to the House the Government's response.

While the evidence that has been presented from across the industry is mixed, the Government recognise that many operators have found trading conditions difficult. There are likely to be a range of reasons for the current downturn. While the evidence presented to me concentrates almost exclusively on regulatory factors, it attaches lesser or no weight to a range of other plausible factors such as levels of investment in product development, longer term structural and technological changes and wider economic factors. While it is open to Government to take action within the framework of the Act, the industry must recognise and find its own solutions to some of these problems.

Representations have also been made to me concerning what were dubbed under the previous legislation section 16 and section 21 machines. Whatever the view in some sections of the industry of what earlier legislation permitted, there seems little value in prolonging that debate now. The current legal position is beyond doubt.

The new system of regulation established by the Act, and the strict limits it imposes, were set only after lengthy debate during pre-legislative scrutiny, the passage of the Gambling Bill, and on the relevant secondary legislation. The principal trade bodies, including the Bingo Association and BACTA, played a full role throughout the passage of this legislation, and in the public consultation that preceded it.

I must consider the requests for changes within the new framework established by the Act and agreed recently by Parliament. That framework gives Parliament the final say; it is for the Government to decide what proposals should be put to public consultation and then presented to Parliament for consideration.

I have concluded that there is strong evidence that the situation in the bingo industry has been particularly acute. Between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2007 the number of bingo clubs operating fell from 696 to 634. A further 37 clubs closed during 2007-08, around 6 per cent. of the industry.

Colleagues in the House will recognise that bingo clubs fulfil an important social function in many communities. The 2007 Henley report commissioned by the Bingo Association found that for many people, especially older and retired women, bingo is the main or sole leisure pursuit outside of the home. Despite the range of deregulatory measures that we have already introduced to assist the industry, it is clear that the future of bingo clubs in many communities is under threat.

I am persuaded that a number of other special circumstances apply to bingo. These include the fact that under the industry's business model there is high demand for machines during short periods of the day, which may impair the fair and open conduct of gambling.

I have also noted two additional points made by the Bingo Association that:

> while in recognition of the enhanced social responsibilities imposed by the Act, casinos, betting shops and adult gaming centres (AGCs) received an enhanced gaming machine entitlement, bingo halls retained the same machine entitlement as under the Gaming Act 1968; and,
>
> bingo halls provide a softer gambling environment in which gaming machines are ancillary to bingo.

The Bingo Association has argued that, to help arrest the decline, the number of category B3 machines (£1 maximum stake, £500 maximum prize) that bingo halls are permitted should increase from four currently to as many as 16. In my view this goes too far. An increase of this proportion would be inconsistent with the precautionary approach that the Government have taken to gambling regulation.

Nevertheless I am persuaded that the situation facing the bingo industry is sufficiently grave, and the circumstances surrounding bingo sufficiently distinct, to justify considering whether a smaller increase might be appropriate without jeopardising our principal priority, which remains to protect the public.

For this reason, I have decided to consult on a proposal to increase to eight the number of category B3 machines which bingo clubs may offer. This enhanced entitlement will only apply to bingo halls which operate a strict over 18s entry policy. If, in the light of public consultation, we decide to proceed, we will bring forward the necessary order. This will be for Parliament to approve by means of an affirmative resolution.

I have also been struck by the representations I have received from hon. Members on all sides in support of seaside arcades. Family entertainment centres, which are not permitted to offer high stake, high prize category B gaming machines, form an integral part of many families' seaside holidays or day trips. I want to see that continue.

The Government have already taken steps to help seaside arcades. In October 2006, in response to requests for assistance from the industry and a year earlier than planned, we increased the stake and prize levels for category C gaming machines to 50p and £35 respectively. These changes benefited not only seaside arcades, but also pubs, bingo clubs and AGCs, as well as gaming machine manufacturers and suppliers.

To give the industry certainty and to enable it to plan properly, we made a commitment to review stakes and prizes again in 2009. However, in view of the difficult trading conditions which many operators are now reporting, I have decided on an exceptional basis to bring forward the planned review by one year for the lowest categories of gaming machine—categories C and D. Category D machines include 10p stake and £5 prize fruit machines, as well as traditional seaside amusements like penny falls and crane grabs.

The industry must recognise that this is a one-off. I am mindful of the risk that, coming so soon after the 2006 changes, an early review could perpetuate a view in some sections of the industry that ever increasing stake and prize levels are the only answer to the pressures it faces. This may lead to tensions in terms of the licensing objectives, and act as a disincentive to the industry to explore other ways to freshen its appeal. At the same time, I understand the need for certainty among manufacturers and operators alike on the date of future reviews.

In addition, I am therefore announcing today that I have decided to reinstitute the system of triennial reviews that grew up by custom and practice under the previous legislation. This will mean that, after the 2009 review (part of which I am bringing forward to this year), the next review will take place in 2012.

In view of the priority which the industry attaches to an early review, I am adopting a fast track process. We are writing today to trade bodies, faith groups and others with an interest in problem gambling, to invite submissions on what stake and prize levels should apply for machines in categories C and D during the period until 2012.

Having carefully considered these submissions, I will formulate proposals and, prior to formal consultation, seek advice from the Gambling Commission on whether any of these proposals raise concerns in terms of the licensing objectives. There will then be a formal three month consultation before any legislation is brought forward. Any changes will be for Parliament to approve, again by means of an affirmative resolution. I intend to complete the consultation with a view to returning to Parliament with any necessary order in the autumn.

There is no guarantee that this review process will result in increases. It will be for the industry to make that case, and for wider stakeholders to state their views.

I have considered carefully whether the evidence that has been presented would justify extending this early review to high stake, high prize gaming machines in categories Bl, B2, B3, B3A and B4. In particular, I have carefully considered BACTA's call for an immediate doubling in the maximum stake on category B3 machines, found in AGCs and bingo halls, from £1 to £2.

A key element of BACTA's case is that customers have found the category B3 machine with its £1 stake and £500 prize unattractive, and that this has led in turn to customers migrating from AGCs to play category B2 machines (commonly known as fixed odds betting terminals) in betting shops. Little in the way of convincing evidence has been submitted to substantiate this claimed migration.

I have consistently made it clear that I view the growing popularity of category B2 machines and other high stake, high prize gaming machines with concern. That is why in March I asked the Gambling Commission to prioritise research in this area. The aim is to explore the available research which assesses whether there is any evidence:

of causal links between the availability of high stake, high prize gaming machines and the development of problem gambling;

regarding the attraction of these machines to existing problem gamblers;

that existing gambling problems are exacerbated by access to these machines.

Work is already underway and, by the end of July 2008, the Commission will recommend what, if any, further research is needed. The Commission expects to publish the findings from any further work in June 2009.

If evidence emerges that category B2 machines are a particular problem, I will not hesitate to use the extensive powers under the Act to regulate them more stringently. In the meantime, I have concluded that it would not be appropriate to review stake and prize levels for category B machines, or to agree to BACTA's specific proposal, before the Commission's work is complete and Ministers and Parliament can consider any new findings which emerge. The Government have committed to review stake and prize levels on all categories of machine in 2009, and we will make good on this commitment in respect of category B machines once the Commission has reported.

I have also considered carefully a proposal by BACTA that adult gaming centres—arcades restricted to over 18s found on many high streets—should be permitted to make available category B3 machines on a ratio of 20 per cent. to the total number of gaming machines provided, in place of the current limit of four machines per premises.

I have, however, concluded that this proposal would not provide sufficient certainty about the total number of B3 machines in individual AGC premises, or across the AGC estate as a whole. It could create the potential for larger machine sheds with significant concentrations of high stake, high prize gaming machines in easily accessible high street locations. I am concerned that this could have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives.

I have also considered whether AGCs should benefit from the increased machine entitlement I am proposing for bingo clubs. However, I am not persuaded on the basis of the evidence that has been presented to me that the same exceptional and special circumstances apply. For instance, no evidence has been presented of closures on the scale of those experienced in the bingo industry. In AGCs, gaming machine play is not an ancillary activity, nor is there any clear evidence of unmet demand for such machines.

While I understand that this will come as a disappointment to AGCs, they will of course benefit from any increases to stake and prize levels of category C machines, which form the bulk of their machine offer.

International Sporting Relations

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I want to update the House today on the action Her Majesty's Government are taking in relation to proposed bilateral tour of the Zimbabwean cricket team to England in 2009.

The Government have been monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe closely. I hope the House will appreciate that we have delayed intervening in this matter and allowed time for the situation to improve. However, the deteriorating situation around the failed and illegitimate elections in Zimbabwe, and the imminence of the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) annual conference in Dubai, means that the point of decision on this matter has now been reached. We have been in close discussions with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) throughout recent months.

The Zimbabwean Government have ceased to observe the principle of the rule of law: it has terrorised its own citizens, including the ruthless and violent suppression of legitimate political opposition.

The UK Government will always work with the international community to uphold fundamental freedoms and human rights. Accordingly, the UK Government have responded with a measured approach which seeks to isolate Zimbabwe internationally and bring pressure to bear on supranational institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union to take yet firmer action against the despotic regime, while ensuring that its humanitarian life-saving mission to Zimbabwean citizens continues.

The Government are clear that direct intervention on a sporting matter should not be taken lightly and our position has been to intervene in this matter only as a last resort. The Government have previously called on the ICC to reconsider its rules to allow teams to forfeit tours to countries, such as Zimbabwe, where serious human rights abuses are occurring. Unfortunately the ICC has declined to do so.

However, with the ICC Conference due to take place in Dubai next week, the Government now have to make their position clear.

The Government strongly defend the autonomy of sports' governing bodies. We also support the autonomous management of international sporting competitions by international sports federations and independent representation of British sporting interests on such federations by our national governing bodies. The serious human rights abuses occurring in Zimbabwe and the close ties of the Zimbabwe cricket team to the Mugabe regime present exceptional circumstances that justify exceptional measures. It would never be our wish to penalise domestic supporters, and nor would we wish to place players particularly in the uncomfortable position of having to take difficult individual judgments on these matters.

Therefore, it is with regret that Her Majesty's Government have decided to make clear that they are prepared to prevent the bilateral tour in 2009 and will take all necessary steps to prevent players from Zimbabwe from participating in that tour.

I have today written to Giles Clarke, the Chairman of the ECB, instructing the ECB not to hold the bilateral tour with Zimbabwe. The Government welcome reports that the issue of Zimbabwe's involvement in world cricket is on the agenda at the ICC annual conference which is taking place next week in Dubai. We hope that this letter will help ECB play a full part in these discussions, and lead to a positive outcome particularly in relation to the important event, ICC's World Twenty20 tournament, due to be staged in England in 2009. A copy of this letter is attached to this statement.

We hope that there will not be a need to repeat this exceptional measure and we will continue to work with the international community to allow full sporting relations to be restored. The Government will continue to monitor closely the situation in Zimbabwe and remain prepared to reconsider their position should circumstances in Zimbabwe materially improve.

Letter to Giles Clarke, Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board:

I write to set out the Government's views on the proposed bilateral tour of the Zimbabwean cricket team to England in 2009.

You will be aware of our grave concerns about the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe. In these circumstances, the Government has concluded that it would not be right to allow the proposed tour by the Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) team in 2009 to take place.

The Government has been monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe closely. I hope you will appreciate that we have delayed intervening in this matter and allowed time for the situation to improve. However, the deteriorating situation around the failed and illegitimate elections in Zimbabwe, and the imminence of the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) Annual Conference in Dubai, means that the point of decision on this matter has now been reached.

The Zimbabwean Government has ceased to observe the principle of the rule of law: it has terrorised its own citizens, including the ruthless and violent suppression of legitimate political opposition.

The UK Government will always work with the international community to uphold fundamental freedoms and human rights. Accordingly, the UK Government has responded with a measured approach which seeks to isolate Zimbabwe internationally and bring pressure to bear on supranational institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union to take yet firmer action against the despotic regime, whilst ensuring that its humanitarian life-saving mission to Zimbabwean citizens continues.

The UK Government considers that it would be contrary to this general approach for the English cricket team to participate in bilateral fixtures with Zimbabwe. The close ties of the Zimbabwe Cricket team to the Mugabe regime have also had a bearing on our decision.

> I can assure you that this is not a decision we have taken lightly. The Government strongly defends the autonomy of our sports' governing bodies. We also support the autonomous management of international sporting competitions by international sports federations and independent representation of British sporting interests on such federations by our national governing bodies. This decision on Zimbabwe does not alter that general position, but is made in response to the exceptional circumstances in this case. It would never be our wish to penalise domestic supporters, and nor would we wish to place players particularly in the uncomfortable position of having to take difficult individual judgements on these matters.
>
> The Government has previously called on the ICC to reconsider its rules to allow teams to forfeit tours to countries, such as Zimbabwe, where serious human rights abuses are occurring. Unfortunately the ICC has declined to do so. Therefore, the Government has decided to make clear that it is prepared to prevent the bilateral tour in 2009 and will take all necessary steps to prevent players from Zimbabwe from participating in that tour.
>
> The Government welcomes reports that the issue of Zimbabwe's involvement in world cricket is on the agenda at the ICC Annual conference which is taking place next week in Dubai. We hope that this letter will help ECB play a full part in these discussions, and lead to a positive outcome particularly in relation to the important event, ICC's World Twenty20 Tournament, due to be staged in England in 2009.
>
> I trust that this letter sets out clearly the position of Her Majesty's Government. It is not a letter I take any pleasure in sending, nor one that I would wish to repeat. However, in these exceptional circumstances, I hope the reasons for it will be understood in the wider cricketing world.

DEFENCE

Burton Review

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1225-37 and 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 78WS, I informed the House about the theft of laptop computers containing a database with personal records relating to individuals who had expressed interest in joining the armed forces, and that I had invited Sir Edmund Burton to conduct a full investigation into the circumstances that led to the MOD's loss of this personal data; the effectiveness of the immediate measures we introduced to prevent any recurrence; and the adequacy of the Department's policy, practice and management arrangements for the protection of personal data more generally.

Sir Edmund has reported, and I have placed a copy of his report in the Library of the House and published it on the Department's website at: www.mod.uk. I am very grateful for the effort that Sir Edmund and his team have put into this review. The report is in two parts with an executive summary. Part one sets out the events leading up to the loss of data on 9 January 2008, covering the relevant issues surrounding the Training Administration and Financial Management Information System (TAFMIS) and the attendant policies and procedures. Part two considers the broader MOD approach to personal data protection, drawing on the emerging findings of the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedure in Government, whose final report is also being published today. Further detail and a summary of Sir Edmund's 51 recommendations are given in the annexes to the report. These have been published in full, although the names of those consulted have been redacted.

I accept all 51 of Sir Edmund's recommendations, and I am determined that we should learn the wider lessons to be drawn from this incident. At the direction of the Defence board, an action plan has been prepared to implement the recommendations, and this is being published today also. The senior management of the MOD, in the form of the Defence board, accepts that it has ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the Department's information management and assurance, and will supervise the implementation of the action plan.

The action plan has been shown to Sir Edmund, who has indicated that it has his support and is in his view capable of delivering the improvements in practice which his report concludes are necessary. Sir Edmund's report, and the action plan including the immediate steps we have taken to bring the TAFMIS system into compliance with the Data Protection Act have also been shared with the Information Commissioner; we will keep his office appraised of progress.

On the TAFMIS recruitment system, Sir Edmund's report has set out, to the extent that he has been able to establish the facts, the sequence of events that led to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force version of the system being unencrypted. This confirms that efforts were made to encrypt the system through an encryption upgrade, and that this was successful for most of the system. However, in August 2006 the encryption on the 55 TAFMIS laptops containing the Royal Navy/Royal Air Force recruit database was reported not to be working as expected. Despite examining all the available papers and interviewing relevant personnel from the Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD), who manage the contract for the system on behalf of all three armed services, and the system provider, EDS, Sir Edmund has been unable to find an explanation of why encryption of these 55 was not pursued by another means, and those using the system came to believe that it was encrypted when it was not. His main conclusions are that aspects of the TAFMIS project were poorly managed both by the ARTD's internal project manager and EDS; that for periods in 2006 and 2007 the laptops in question were being used in breach of MOD laptop encryption security policy; and that in certain key respects, detailed in the report, the TAFMIS system is still in breach of data protection regulations. His findings have confirmed my own suspicion that there was no robust business reason for so much personal data to be carried around by recruiting officers on their laptops. Action is already in hand to remedy this position.

After studying the report, the Chief of the General Staff has ordered an inquiry to investigate whether there are grounds to pursue either disciplinary or administrative action in respect of the management of the contract between the Army and EDS.

On the more general aspects of his review, Sir Edmund finds that departmental policies and procedures generally are fit for purpose and he gives some examples of good practice by the Department (the role of the MOD's senior information risk owner; the emergency measures introduced after the loss which have been effective in preventing similar damaging losses; the network of data protection officers; and the good security data protection and information risk management procedures of the organisations within the Department for whom handling of large volumes of personal data is core business); but he is highly critical of the Department's general treatment in practice of information, knowledge and data as key operational and business assets, and of low levels of awareness of the threats to information and of the requirements of data protection legislation. Therefore, his recommendations focus on training and steps to raise awareness and compliance, and to raise the profile of the issue within our various management boards.

Sir Edmund's investigation and other internal inquiries have established more of the facts than were available when I made my statement to the House on 21 January. Of the 600,000 recruits or potential recruits who were in the TAFMIS data base, about 1,000 dated back to 1977. In a substantial proportion of cases, the records included more limited information about next of kin and contact details for referees.

We have also established that, in addition to the three stolen TAFMIS laptop computers referred to in the statement, a further two laptops similar to those stolen in January 2008 and October 2006 were stolen from cars: a Royal Navy laptop in Bristol in August 2004 and a Royal Air Force laptop in Leeds in July 2006. In both cases the laptops were believed at the time to have been encrypted and Ministers were not informed of the losses. The personal data held on these laptops were a subset of that held on the laptop stolen on 9 January 2008 and so does not affect anyone not already affected by that incident.

Following the theft of the laptop on 9 January, the Department conducted a full internal investigation into the details of computer and other electronic storage media lost or stolen since 2003 when mandatory reporting of such incidents was introduced. This investigation has now been completed and the collated data were provided to Sir Edmund Burton as part of his review. He has summarised key elements of the data in his report.

Prior to 2003 the reporting of lost and stolen laptops was not centrally collated and it has been found that the figures for the period 1995 to 2002 may be incomplete and therefore unreliable. As the details of incidents for this period are no longer available it is not possible to provide updated figures.

In conclusion, I reiterate my deep regret over both the losses of personal data and the systemic weaknesses within parts of the MOD that led to this situation. As the Cabinet Office report also published today highlights, these reflect challenges faced by all parts of Government but that does not make them any more acceptable. Both I and senior MOD management are determined to act quickly and decisively on Sir Edmund's recommendations and bring about an early significant improvement in practice within the Department in this important area.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Consultation on Visitors (Government Report)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): This year sees the biggest changes to Britain's immigration and border security system for 45 years. Our policy will deliver strong borders, a selective migration system and an expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay. Our ambition is that migration policy maximises benefits for Britain and manages local impacts.

This strategy underpins our Australian-style points system and reforms to spouse visas, and requires us to modernise visit visas. I am therefore setting out today a strategy for comprehensively overhauling our visit visa system. Copies are being placed in the Library of the House and include our formal response to our consultation on visitor visas published in December 2007. The full analysis of responses to the consultation can be found on the UK Border Agency website.

In modernising our visit visa system, our ambition is two fold: to let legitimate visitors connect with the UK quickly, and to strengthen still further our border security.

Significant changes lie at the heart of today's strategy:

> We will create a separate category for business and special visitors to make clear the activities that are permitted while in the UK. We will bring the current concessions for entertainers and sportspeople within the immigration rules as special visitors.
>
> We will introduce visas for sponsored family visits. Proposals for simplifying the system for family visitors received wide support. I propose therefore to bring forward important changes. Individuals who wish to sponsor family members will need to be licensed by the UKBA. Only British citizens or permanent residents will be able to apply. Sponsors, after being thoroughly vetted, must agree to comply with their duties. We will introduce a range of sanctions for sponsors who do not ensure their family return home, ranging from a ban on future sponsorship, a civil penalty of up to £5000, and a possible jail term of up to 14 years.
>
> We will preserve streamlined appeals for family visit visas.

There are two policy areas to which I propose no change following the consultation responses:

> Overseas domestic workers (ODWs). We are proud of the protection we afford overseas domestic workers. The current ODW visa will be preserved and then reviewed as appropriate after the first two years' operation of the reformed immigration system, when we have properly road tested our anti-trafficking strategy.
>
> Allowing up to six months for tourist visas. In our consultation document we asked whether we should reduce the maximum length of leave for tourists travelling to the UK from six months to three months. The majority of respondents did not agree with this proposal and we have agreed to retain the maximum length of leave at six months, although the UK Border Agency will have discretion to grant less than the maximum if it judges appropriate.

We know that many have a stake in us getting today's policy right. For this reason we coupled a formal consultation with meetings with parliamentarians, with community meetings with the UK's ethnic minority community and, for the first time, consultation in India, our largest visa market, supported by a cross-party delegation of community leaders and business people. Six hundred and four additional responses were received regarding the consultation.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed. I will now bring forward changes to both legislation and the immigration rules to give effect to today's announcement. Because of the significance of the changes proposed, I will publish detailed statements of intent in advance of introducing change, together with detailed impact assessments.

JUSTICE

No-Win No-Fee Arrangements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am announcing today the commencement of a feasibility and scoping study into the operation of no-win no-fee arrangements in England and Wales.

We are aware of growing concerns that no-win no-fee arrangements may not always be operating in the interests of access to justice. This includes a perception that consumer interests are not always being best served; allegations over the possible misuse of no-win no-fee agreements and a potential adverse impact on the administration of justice. We feel that now is the appropriate time for a comprehensive, objective and evidence based examination of the operation of no-win no-fee arrangements in relation to personal injury, employment and defamation/privacy cases. This work forms an important part of one of the Department's key objectives to deliver fair and simple routes to justice, including identifying any gaps in access to justice in the above areas.

We recognise that the issues at hand are complex and varied and their consideration could potentially be a large-scale exercise. Therefore, as a preliminary step, the Department has asked Professors Richard Moorhead (Director of Research, Cardiff law school), Paul Fenn (Nottingham university business school) and Neil Rickman (Head of Economics, university of Surrey, and RAND Europe) to conduct a research-based review of how conditional fee arrangements operate in personal injury, employment, and defamation/privacy cases. Today I am announcing the commencement of the scoping work the purpose of which is to highlight the key issues and identify areas that would benefit from further work.

The study will consider how best to:

identify representative samples of claims data in personal injury, employment and defamation/privacy cases;

examine the nature of funding arrangements in these cases and the outcome;

identify random samples of clients and legal advisers that may help provide more detailed data about the understanding of quality and change within the legal services sector; and

analyse the unmet legal needs in the areas of personal injury, employment and defamation/privacy cases.

Professors Moorhead, Fenn and Rickman are expected to report to Ministers in the autumn. The report will help determine what specific aspects ought to be pursued in more detail and the feasibility of doing so.

Sentencing Guidelines Council (Annual Report 2007-08)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Sentencing Guidelines Council has today published its annual report, jointly with the Sentencing Advisory Panel, giving details of the excellent work it has achieved during the past year and outlining its work plans for the next 12 months.

Copies of the annual report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

CABINET OFFICE

Data Handling Procedures

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): On 21 November, the Prime Minister announced that he had asked the Cabinet Secretary, with the advice of security experts, to work with Departments to ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data. An interim report, published on 17 December, summarised action taken across Government, and set out initial directions of reform to strengthen the Government's arrangements.

I am today placing a final report in the Libraries of both Houses. The final report summarises work conducted in Departments to improve data handling. It further sets out how the Government are improving information security by putting in place:

core measures to protect personal data and other information across Government;

a culture that properly values, protects and uses information;

stronger accountability mechanisms within Departments; and

stronger scrutiny of performance.

The measures being put in place, which represent a new set of minimum mandatory standards for Departments, include:

introducing new rules on the use of protective measures, such as encryption and penetration testing of systems;

standardising and enhancing the processes by which Departments understand and manage their information risk, identifying the key individuals responsible for information assets and setting out their responsibilities;

requiring quarterly risk assessment within each Department of the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information;

introducing mandatory training for all staff involved in handling personal data, with training taking place on appointment and reinforced on an annual basis;

requiring the use of privacy impact assessments when introducing new policy or processes that involve the use of personal data;

introducing greater scrutiny and monitoring through the inclusion of information risk in statements on internal control, which are scrutinised by the National Audit Office and through spot checks by the Information Commissioner;

further enhancing transparency of arrangements, through annual reporting to Parliament on progress and the use of information charters which provide clarity to citizens about the use and handling of personal data; and

a range of other measures to improve information security across Government.

The Cabinet Secretary's work was informed in part by a review of information assurance by Nick Coleman, which is also published today, with copies being placed in the Libraries of both Houses. To complement today's report, Sir David Omand is examining the handling of highly classified documents. The Cabinet Secretary is looking at the implementation of the rules for handling documents, and will take account of Sir David's findings.

Progress in implementing the new measures and actions announced today will be overseen by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Personal Data Security. Departments will report each year on their individual position and the Cabinet Office will report annually to Parliament on progress across Government as a whole, with the first report following the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

Effective public services depend on information about the people they serve. But in order to command public confidence, that information needs to be safely stored and protected. The Government are determined to take the necessary steps to improve data security. The measures outlined today are an important part of that process.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

UK Renewable Energy Strategy

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): As promised in my statement of 23 January 2008, I am publishing today a consultation on the ways the UK could increase renewable energy in order to meet the UK's proposed share of the EU target to achieve 20 per cent. of all Europe's energy from renewable sources in 2020.

Increasing renewable energy is a key element of our strategy for delivering our two key goals of tackling climate change and ensuring that the UK has a secure supply of affordable energy. Measures set out in the 2007 Energy White Paper will already triple our use of renewables from 1.5 per cent. overall energy in 2006 to 5 per cent. by 2020, but we recognise we need to do more. Investment in renewable generation will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels at a time of rising prices, particularly oil and gas. This consultation will inform the UK renewable energy strategy to be published in spring 2009, once the final EU Directive implementing the target for EU renewable energy has been agreed and the UK share decided. The consultation will run for three months and we will publish the responses this autumn.

Currently, the proposed UK share of the EU target is to achieve 15 per cent. of our energy—electricity, heat and transport—from renewables by 2020. Our negotiating position has been to ensure that the targets contained in the draft directive are credible, by giving member states enough flexibility to deploy renewables in the most cost-effective manner. This need for credibility applies to other key parts of the draft directive, including the 10 per cent. renewable transport target for biofuels, so the UK has been pushing hard for robust sustainability criteria to be included.

The challenge that a target of 15 per cent. renewable energy represents should not be underestimated. It may require a tenfold increase in renewable generation in the UK from 2006 levels. This might mean, for example, needing up to an extra 4,000 onshore and 3,000 offshore wind turbines, a major challenge for the supply chain and UK business. We are also conducting a feasibility study on the range of tidal power options in the Severn estuary that could provide up to 5 per cent. of UK electricity. The consultation seeks views on how we can meet the 15 per cent. target in the most cost-effective way. Regardless of our final approach, success will require action right across the economy, from industry and investors, but also from the devolved Administrations, local and regional bodies and consumers.

This consultation outlines possible measures to facilitate a rapid expansion of renewables. It sets out ways to address the significant barriers and encourage the enormous level of investment required, signalling the business opportunities that this transformation could offer. The measures are wide ranging and include:

extending and raising the level of the renewables obligation to encourage up to 30 to 35 per cent. of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020;

introducing a new financial incentive mechanism to encourage a very large increase in renewable heat, including in homes and buildings;

delivering more effective financial support for heat and electricity microgeneration technologies in homes and buildings;

helping the planning system to deliver, by agreeing a clear deployment strategy at regional level similar to the approach established for housing;

ensuring appropriate incentives for new electricity grid infrastructure and removing grid access as a barrier to renewable deployment;

exploiting the full potential of energy from waste, by considering further restrictions on landfilling biomass, as far as is practical;

requiring all biofuels to meet strict sustainability criteria, to limit adverse impacts on food prices, or other social and environmental concerns;

encouraging the development of new renewable technologies by ensuring effective support, particularly where the UK has the potential to be a market leader;

maximising the benefits for UK business, by providing a clear long-term policy framework, working with Regional Development Agencies to tackle key blockages, considering support for specific technologies and

addressing skills shortages.

In the short term, the impact of our measures on utility bills is likely to be almost zero; however, such rapid action will not come without some associated cost. The extent of these rises will depend on the cost of alternatives, particularly fossil fuels, and we can limit their effect, both on energy bills and fuel poverty by promoting an essential, ongoing role for energy efficiency. As part of this, DEFRA will publish a consultation in the autumn looking at energy efficiency across all sectors with a particular emphasis on households, and within that, what we can do to improve the efficiency of our existing housing stock.

We are committed to developing the most cost-effective approach to delivering the scale of renewable energy required. To ensure we have investigated all the options, we are also consulting on the role that using provisions in the draft EU renewables directive relating to trading could play in reducing the overall cost to the UK of meeting the target.

There are costs associated with increasing renewable energy. However, we believe they are worth paying for. As the Stern review concluded, the costs of tackling climate change could be far higher in the longer term than the costs of taking action now.

The business benefits from an expansion in renewable energy in the UK could include up to 160,000 new jobs generated in the renewable energy sector by 2020. The Government's ambition is to ensure that as many of these jobs are based in the UK as possible. Annual revenues from marine energy for example could be as much as £900 million by 2020. The consultation seeks views on how we can ensure the UK receives the maximum benefit from the rapid expansion of the renewable energy sector and will be completed by a revised manufacturing strategy which we hope to bring out in the autumn.

The Climate Change Bill reinforces our commitment to tackle climate change and the Energy White Paper 2007 sets out our broader commitments to save energy, develop cleaner energy supplies and to ensure secure supplies of energy. This consultation and the policies that will follow sit together with those on nuclear and carbon capture and storage (CCS) to facilitate a diverse mix of low carbon energy sources. Our position on nuclear is clear, and in support of our position as a world leader in CCS we will making further announcements on the UK CCS Demonstration project and publishing a consultation on the regulation of CCS next week. The consultation seeks views on the further regulatory steps we could take to prepare for deployment of CCS.

A copy of the UK renewable energy strategy consultation has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the BERR website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Loss Payments

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Secretary of State has today laid regulations to update the home loss payments thresholds in section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (as amended). Home loss payments are paid at a rate of 10 per cent. of the market value to owner-occupiers who are displaced from their homes as a result of compulsory purchase or certain housing orders. They are paid in addition to the compensation awarded for the value of the property taken, which is based on the open market value of the property together with disturbance payments. Home loss payments are subject to maximum and minimum thresholds. Tenants receive a flat rate equal to the minimum payment to owner-occupiers.

With effect from 1 September 2008, the maximum payment to owner-occupiers displaced from their home will be increased from £44,000 to £47,000 and the minimum payment will be increased from £4,400 to £4,700. The flat rate will be increased from £4,400 to £4,700.

The period of two months between laying the regulations and commencement will give acquiring authorities reasonable notice to revise their budgets for compensation. This is similar to the notice period given in previous years for revisions to the home loss payments thresholds.

Council Tax

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 27 March I made a statement to the House on council tax capping for eight authorities. I announced the start of a process that could lead to capping, and said that in the following weeks we would listen carefully to the representations made by the authorities concerned. Those eight authorities were Portsmouth city council, and the police authorities of Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Surrey and Warwickshire. All eight authorities were 'designated', and the Government proposed maximum 2008-09 budget requirements for each authority under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

All eight authorities exercised their right to challenge their proposed maximum budget requirements and made written submissions in support of their cases. I met a delegation from Portsmouth city council and was joined by the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing to meet delegations from each of the seven police authorities to hear all of the cases in person.

Having carefully considered the representations all authorities have made, both orally and in writing, and having taken into account all relevant information I can now confirm decisions on how the Government intend to proceed in each case. In putting forward their challenges, no authority has, in the Secretary of State's view, presented strong arguments as to why an excessive increase was necessary. Furthermore, no authority has demonstrated that the pressures identified acted disproportionately upon them to any significant extent compared to other authorities. We intend therefore to take action in all cases.

After careful consideration, taking account of both service and tax impacts on residents in the areas concerned, the Secretary of State has decided on the following actions:

> to 'designate' Lincolnshire at £100,638,000 compared to the original proposed cap of £94,926,000. The authority will therefore have to reset its budget and precept;
>
> to cancel the designation of the police authorities of Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, but nominate all three authorities for 2008-09, designating them in 2009-10 and 2010-11. This 'designation after nomination' will provide protection to council taxpayers by limiting the authorities' capacity to increase council tax in 2009-10, and allow the authorities a phased return to setting non-excessive budget requirements. We intend to limit increases in the budget requirements of these authorities to the equivalent of an increase of 3 per cent. in council tax precept in both 2009- 10 and 2010-11. This firmly protects taxpayers but avoids the need for re-billing; and
>
> to cancel the designation of the police authorities of Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Surrey and of Portsmouth city council, but nominate them with a proposed notional budget requirement for each authority for 2008-09 at the level of the maximum budget requirement originally proposed when they were designated. For Bedfordshire police authority the proposed notional budget requirement is £95,790,000, for Norfolk police authority £137,901,000, for Portsmouth city council £148,530,000, and for Surrey police authority 189,622,000. Nomination and setting a notional budget for Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Surrey police authorities and for Portsmouth city council will limit these authorities' capacity to set excessive increases in future years by measuring for capping purposes future budget requirement increases against their 2008-09 notional budget requirement. This will provide their council taxpayers with extra protection in future years.

My officials are writing to all authorities today informing them of these decisions. Subject to approval of an order I am laying before the House today, Lincolnshire police authority will need to re-set its budget requirement and precept. This means that its residents will be re-billed for a lower council tax.

The three authorities subject to designation after nomination will have an opportunity to challenge their proposed designation for 2009-10 when they are notified in due course. We intend to start this process at the same time as we commence consultation on the provisional local government finance settlement later this year.

The four authorities nominated in 2008-09 and set a notional budget requirement have 21 days from receipt of the notification in which to challenge their proposed notional budget requirement.

In taking this necessary action, I recognise that local government generally has done a great deal to ensure that they do not place unnecessary pressures on their council taxpayers. More than 98 per cent. of authorities did not set excessive increases—and the average Band D council tax increase in England for 2008-09 is 4.0 per cent., the lowest increase for 14 years and the second lowest ever.

There is no excuse for excessive increases in council tax, and authorities should be in no doubt that the Government will use its full range of capping powers to deal with excessive increases and protect council tax payers in future years.

Housing and Regeneration Bill (Contingency Fund)

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): The Department for Communities and Local Government has obtained approval for an advance from the contingencies fund to allow the early recruitment and appointment of the boards and senior executives with support arrangements, for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) before Royal Assent.

The Homes and Communities Agency will bring together the current work and programmes of the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and a significant part of Communities and Local Government's own housing programmes.

The Tenant Services Authority will encompass the current regulatory functions of the Housing Corporation and implement the recommendations of the Cave review.

Bringing forward this expenditure through a contingencies fund advance will accelerate the introduction of the new agencies so they can begin to deliver their programmes more expeditiously. It will also enable efficiency savings to be achieved earlier and will provide significant reductions in public spending.

An earlier advance of £930,000 was approved to cover the costs of recruiting the chairs and chief executives of HCA and TSA as well as their salary and support costs. Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £430,000 for these new services will be sought in the Department's 2008-09 winter supplementary estimate for Communities and Local Government. Pending that approval and Royal Assent of the Housing and Regeneration Bill, urgent expenditure estimated at £430,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingencies fund.

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 2 April 2008, I laid before Parliament a written ministerial statement on provisional payments under the three-year Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI). I am now in a position to announce the final payments, which will be made shortly. These payments include reward for Years 1 and 2 of the scheme and new payments for Year 3 of the scheme, distributing a total of approximately £296 million to 371 local authorities in England.

Authorities were given until 16 May 2008 to comment on the methodology outlined on 2 April 2008. The Department received 28 responses, and the Valuation Office Agency received 59 enquiries directly. Most queries sought clarification of how the calculations had been performed or about data which had been used, timing of payments or confirmation that their proposed allocation was correct, whilst a few responses raised specific points on the methodology.

We have considered all responses received, and I am content that the published methodology has been correctly applied. I do not, therefore, propose to amend the methodology as published in the technical note (http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/technote0708.pdf), or the way in which it has been applied. However, in a small number of cases, the proposed payment has been adjusted in response to a specific point raised by an authority or in relation to a previous overpayment.

Details of the payments to be made to each qualifying authority under the Government's proposals can be found at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/seconddtmn0708.pdf.

As a result of the adjustments made, approximately £101 million remains to be distributed and this will be retained as a contingency, as I explained on 2 April (*Official Report*, Column 56WS).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Diplomatic Missions (Traffic Violation Fines: 2007)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In 2007, there were 6,241 recorded outstanding parking and other minor traffic violation fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom. These totalled £656,275. In March this year the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to all diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned, giving them the opportunity to either pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly. As a result of subsequent payments totalling £27,300 and formal appeals lodged, there remains a total of 5,093 (£538,745) unpaid fines for 2007. The table below details those diplomatic missions and international organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more:

Diplomatic mission / international organisation	*Number of fines outstanding (excluding congestion charge)*	*Amount (£)*
Sudan	696	75,100
Saudi Arabia	382	38,730
Kazakhstan	280	28,180
China	243	26,230
UAE	225	24,670
France	195	20,920
Guinea	168	18,220
Egypt	167	18,140
Turkey	140	15,360
Russia	130	14,160
Libya	132	13,450
Cyprus	118	12,450

Diplomatic mission / international organisation	*Number of fines outstanding (excluding congestion charge)*	*Amount (£)*
Nigeria	97	11,430
Afghanistan	108	11,010
Cote d'Ivoire	72	8,170
Romania	78	8,100
Greece	78	7,940
Georgia	69	7,610
Hungary	69	7,100
Malaysia	64	6,960
Mozambique	64	6830
Tunisia	62	6700
Uzbekistan	62	6550
Zambia	63	6310
Pakistan	53	6260
Jordan	55	5990
Algeria	67	5820
Iran	56	5690
Senegal	55	5290
Oman	45	5090
Ukraine	47	4880
Ghana	42	4140
Kenya	35	3940
USA	36	3660
Bangladesh	31	3530
Liberia	31	3480
Germany	32	3250
Iraq	27	3090
Bulgaria	29	3070
Albania	28	2840
Lithuania	28	2740
North Korea	31	2590
Equatorial Guinea	25	2440
Lesotho	18	2330
Yemen	22	2260
Ethiopia	21	2210
Tanzania	19	2170
International Maritime Org.	20	2010
Poland	19	2000
Belgium	19	1900
Kuwait	18	1900
Syria	17	1810
Zimbabwe	17	1760
Swaziland	16	1740
Thailand	17	1730
Honduras	17	1660
Mauritius	13	1580
Morocco	14	1510
Italy	14	1460
South Africa	12	1460
Jamaica	16	1420
Cameroon	13	1350
Kyrgyzstan	13	1260
Slovak Republic	12	1220
Vietnam	9	1090
Mongolia	10	1060
Moldova	11	1060
Botswana	10	1020
Malawi	9	1020
Totals	4933	520,100

Congestion Charge

The number of outstanding fines incurred by diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom for non-payment of the London congestion charge since its introduction in February 2003 until 14 May 2008 was 175,482. The table below shows the 10 diplomatic missions with the highest value of outstanding fines:

Mission	*Number of fines outstanding*	*Value (£)*
USA	23,188	2,347,205
Japan	13,062	1,334,560
Russian Federation	12,765	1,308,720
Germany	11,213	1,149,050
Nigeria	11,096	1,120,650
Sudan	7,984	793,300
Kenya	5,084	502,630
Tanzania	4,654	461,080
India	3,949	409,360
South Africa	4,098	406,480

Diplomatic Missions (Non-Domestic Rates)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the national non-domestic rates requested from them. They are obliged to pay only 6 per cent. of the total national non-domestic rates (NNDR) value, which represents payment for specific services such as street cleaning, lighting, maintenance and fire services. The total amount outstanding from all diplomatic missions is approximately £424,700.51. However, as at 31 March 2008 the missions listed below owed over £10,000 in NNDR. One additional diplomatic mission, which owes £10,000 or more in NNDR, has made arrangements with the Valuation Office Agency to clear their outstanding debt and has not been included in this list:

Country	*Amount (£)*
Algeria	67,503.84
Zimbabwe	66,993.48
Cameroon	44,124.69
Bangladesh	37,555.49
Cote d'Ivoire	37,056.99
Malawi	27,773.58
Ukraine	18,535.85
Tunisia	17,212.08
Tanzania	11,380.76
Total	328,136.76

Diplomatic Immunity (Serious Offences)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In 2007, 20 serious offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. 'Serious offences' are defined as offences that would, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment. Some 24,000 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom.

The table below lists those foreign missions whose diplomats allegedly committed serious offences and the type of offence from 2003-2007:

2003	
Activities inconsistent with diplomatic status (bribery)	
Saudi Arabia	1
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Algeria	1
Bolivia	1
Bulgaria	1
Commonwealth Secretariat	1
Italy	1
Kuwait	1
Mexico	1
Other[1]	1
Russia	1
Rwanda	1
Sierra Leone	1
Ukraine	1
Indecent assault	
South Africa	1
Morrocco	1
Possession of an offensive weapon	
Libya	1
2004	
Arranging sham marriages	
Nigeria	1
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Angola	1
Austria	1
Luxembourg	1
Mozambique	1
Serbia and Montenegro	1
Spain	1
Indecent assault	
Congo	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Indecent assault on child	
Saudi Arabia	1
Robbery and assault	
Angola	1
2005	
Actual bodily harm	
Jordan	1
Assault (domestic violence)	
Saudi Arabia	1
Dangerous driving	
Turkey	1
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Angola	1
Egypt	1
Ghana	1
Lebanon	1
Peru	1
Russia	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Harassment	
Turkey	1
Theft (shoplifting)	
Egypt	1
Equatorial Guinea	1
Zambia	1
Theft and robbery (of motor vehicle, driving without insurance)	
South Africa	1
2006	
Attempted robbery	
South Africa	1
Deception (going equipped to commit)	
Nigeria	1
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Kazakhstan	2
Belarus	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Kuwait	1
Malawi	1
Oman	1
Saudi Arabia	1
South Africa	1
Driving without insurance	
Pakistan	1
Failure to stop for police/driving without insurance and licence	
Kazakhstan	1
Robbery	
South Africa	1
Theft (obtaining property by deception)	
Ghana	1
2007	
Dangerous driving	
Russia	1
Domestic assault/actual bodily harm	
South Africa	1
Driving without insurance	
Ghana	1
Driving without insurance and driving under the influence of alcohol	
Malawi	2
Driving under the influence of alcohol	
Belarus	1
Georgia	1
Hungary	1
Israel	1
Italy	1
Other[1]	1
Kazakhstan	1
Kuwait	1
Moldova	1
Nigeria	1
Peru	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Turkmenistan	1
Misrepresentation (obtaining insurance by deception)	
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Robbery and actual bodily harm	
Guyana	1

---

[1] Details have been withheld because the number of diplomatic personnel in the mission(s) concerned is/are so small that disclosure would lead to the identification of the individual concerned. This would breach the data protection rights of that individual, in particular, the first data protection principle, namely, that personal data should be processed fairly. This is because the offences are only alleged to have been committed and have not been proven in a court of law. In these circumstances, Section 40 (2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act confer an absolute exemption on disclosure of this information.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service (Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The "Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08" has been laid before Parliament today and will be published shortly.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am pleased to announce that the sixth annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been laid before Parliament today. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power introduced to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act.

From 1 April 2007 to the end of March 2008 over £63 million in cash was seized by police and HM Revenue and Customs Officers under powers in the Act. These sums are subject to forfeiture in the magistrates court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

JUSTICE

Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today laid before Parliament the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008. These rules amend rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984 regarding coroners' powers to make reports to prevent future deaths, and introduce a new rule to allow coroners to share relevant information with Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to enable them to carry out their statutory functions.

The amended rule 43 places a new statutory duty on organisations receiving reports from coroners to respond within 56 days. Coroners must share reports and responses with those, including bereaved families, to whom they have assigned "interested person" status. They must also share reports and responses with the Lord Chancellor and they may share reports and responses with other interested organisations. Reports and responses will be centrally collated for the first time so that lessons learned can be disseminated widely where appropriate and there is national oversight more generally.

A new rule will require coroners to notify LSCBs of any child death that is reported to them, and over which they have jurisdiction, and allow them to share information (such as reports from post-mortem examinations and documents given in evidence at an inquest) with LSCBs. This will enable LSCBs to better meet their statutory duty to conduct child death reviews and will contribute to the fulfilment of their statutory obligations more generally.

The rule was developed in partnership with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which is responsible for legislation regarding LSCBs.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the annual report for 2007-08 of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland which is being laid before Parliament today as a Command Paper.

Copies of the report are available from the Library of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Council of Europe and Western European Union (Appointment)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) has been appointed as a substitute member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray).

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (Transfer of 2007-08 Voted Expenditure)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "Parliament is to be notified that HM Treasury have provided approval for a change in the 2007-08 budgetary arrangements of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, to reflect a transfer of voted expenditure from Administration to Capital.
>
> RCPO's Administration budget in resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be decreased by £150,000 from £20,936,000 to £20,786,000, and capital DEL will be increased by £150,000 from £1,800,000 to £1,950,000.
>
> The change will have no effect on the Department's overall DEL, or on its net cash requirement. The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table.

	Change	*New DEL*	*£'000*
	Voted	*Voted*	*Total*
Resource	*-150*	*38,759*	*38,759*
of which:			
Administration	*-150*	*20,786*	*20,786*
Budget	*-150*	*20,186*	*20,186*
Near Cash in RDEL		-	
Capital	*150*	*1,950*	*1,950*
Less Depreciation[1]	-	*600*	*600*
Total	0	40,109	40,109

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending, and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the capital provision within total DEL arises from some elements of the provision for an IT transition project, which had been budgeted originally as administration expenditure, being reclassified as capital spend".

TRANSPORT

Rail Network (Passenger Screening Trials)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): During 2006, in response to the continuing terrorist threat to the rail network, the Department for Transport carried out passenger screening trials to test the ability of available equipment and dogs to detect explosives, or traces of explosives, in an operational environment.

The London Underground and National Railways (LUNR) passenger screening trials took place at five locations over a six-month period, with the full co-operation of the British Transport Police, Network Rail, London Underground and other stakeholders. Public attitudes surveys were conducted in parallel with the trials. Since then, we have been considering the results of the trials with key stakeholders and the implications for rail security policy.

I am publishing a summary report of the trials on the DfT website, together with five detailed reports on the public attitudes research. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. We are not publishing detailed reports on the individual trials for security reasons, due to the sensitivity of the information within them.

At the same time, the British Transport Police is announcing enhancements to its current screening capability through the use of x-ray equipment and explosive detection dogs capable of screening moving passengers. These enhancements will build on the BTP's existing measures to screen a proportion of passengers and their bags, with minimal delay.

The enhancements are a direct response to the conclusions from the trials which showed that:

> Screening equipment and dogs can be effective in the railway environment. However, given the very large passenger flows and thousands of entry points on the UK rail and underground networks, 100 per cent. airport-style screening is currently not feasible using today's technology.
>
> The public recognises the threat to the rail network, and is broadly supportive of the need for security measures, providing they are proportionate to the threat. However the public would be unlikely to accept major delays to journeys, and wants to ensure that personal privacy is protected.

We will continue to work with the BTP and operators to assess the effectiveness and impact of these new measures and will use this evidence, and that from elsewhere in the UK and abroad, to develop further ways of keeping the travelling public secure using proportionate measures.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 30 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Services Directive Implementation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I am today depositing copies of the Government response to consultation on Services Directive implementation. This summarises respondents' views and sets out the Government's revised plans to implement the EU Services Directive in the UK. The directive is intended to create a single market for services across the EU by addressing barriers to effective cross-border service provision. The Government are required to implement the directive by 28 December 2009.

The consultation sought views on the Government's proposals to implement all strands of the directive:

> to establish an online point of single contact through which service providers seeking to operate in the UK can find the information they need and complete the necessary formalities;
>
> to facilitate greater co-operation between regulatory and supervisory bodies in the UK and in other member states in their supervision of service providers;
>
> to strengthen the rights of service recipients and improve the quality of services through enhanced information provision; and
>
> to abolish restrictive legislation and practices that unnecessarily hinder service providers from operating in the UK.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House and can also be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/europeandtrade/europe/services-directive/page9583.html

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): The annual report 2007-08 of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has today been laid before Parliament. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): I announced to the House on 9 January that I had written to Sir Jim Rose setting out the remit for the review of the primary curriculum. I am today announcing that as part of that remit I have asked Sir Jim to review two of the early literacy goals for five year-olds included in the early years foundation stage (EYFS), and in the existing foundation stage. In carrying out this work, Sir Jim will consider how we can make sure that the early learning goals for literacy set the right foundation for transition into the new primary school arrangements.

The EYFS is a framework for the early learning and care of children from birth to five. It was created and debated in Parliament through the Childcare Act 2006, and comes into statutory force from September 2008. The regulatory impact assessment for the EYFS announced that there would be a post-implementation review of the EYFS from 2010, and I am today announcing further details of this review. Work will begin immediately to make sure arrangements are in place to monitor and improve early delivery, and also to gather the necessary baseline data to measure the impact of the EYFS two years on.

Pending the outcome of the 2010 review, we will be making regulations to allow childcare providers to apply for exemptions from the EYFS for two years in circumstances where a majority of parents agree with the provider's assessment that the established principle which governs their practice conflicts with elements of the EYFS learning and development requirements. This reflects the commitment we have already given to keep under review the case for exemptions, and we have taken on board our discussions with representatives of childcare providers and experts in reaching this decision. This process will be administered by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of the role we will give them in advising on children's learning and development in the EYFS. To ensure public confidence in the process, I have appointed Dorian Bradley, former Director of Children at OFSTED, as an independent adviser on applications for exemptions.

14-19 Diploma

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Every young person deserves the chance to succeed in education, work and life. Our 14-19 changes will deliver that chance and new opportunities for young people in towns, cities and all settings. We know rural and semi-rural areas face a particular set of challenges and we are committed to supporting these areas to overcome these challenges.

Today, I am publishing a report "Delivering 14-19 Reforms in Rural Areas". This shows that rural areas are already deploying a range of solutions to ensure that young people get access to provision. With this report, I am pleased to announce that we are investing £23 million over the next two years in 40 rural and semi-rural areas in the country to drive local solutions and innovation, and ensure that choice is a reality for all young people. Specifically, we are funding the post of a transport and access co-ordinator in the 40 most rural areas and making available £1 million in capital to each of the 20 most rural areas.

I am also publishing an independent research survey that looks at 14-19 transport. This research found that in the short to medium term transport is not a significant issue for local areas. It has highlighted some longer term challenges that we will work with local authorities to address as we move forward.

I am pleased to report that we have made very good progress in the development of the new diplomas. The chairs of the phase 4 Diploma Development Partnerships have an excellent reputation in the areas they are leading on:

Professor Hugh Lawlor, chair of the Science Diploma Development Partnership is a professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University and director of the AstraZeneca Teaching Trust;

Sir Keith Ajegbo, chair of the Humanities Diploma Development Partnership is a former head teacher who has led a Government review on citizenship; and

Dr. Terry Lamb, chair of the Languages Diploma Development Partnership is a senior lecturer in Education at the University of Sheffield and a governor of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

Although we are still at a very early stage in the establishment of the phase 4 Diploma Development Partnerships I am very pleased to announce that around 40 employers have already been engaged in them, including organisations such as AstraZeneca; ITN; G & J Seddon; Lovell; Kier Group; the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry; NHS; the Eden Project and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

We are also working to encourage independent schools to become involved in diploma delivery. It is important for diplomas to be available in all parts of the schools sector. We have held a national conference for independent schools and a seminar for the 14 independent schools which have expressed an interest in diplomas. These include Polam Hall School in Darlington which is approved for diploma delivery from September 2009 and also Wellington College which has announced that it is hoping to deliver the engineering diploma from 2009. I am also announcing today that we will work with independent schools to produce a protocol that sets out guidance for local authorities, schools and colleges on the arrangements, including fair financial and delivery arrangements, between independent schools and 14-19 consortia.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Appeals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): The majority of planning appeals in England are decided by inspectors, but a small percentage is decided by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, usually because the development is large and/or controversial. Around 27,000 appeals are made each year: in 2007, 110 appeals were determined by the Secretary of State. This statement sets out the Secretary of State's policy on recovering planning appeals. It replaces the previous policy on which appeals are recovered for the Secretary of State's determination (which was set out in a House of Commons *Hansard* written answer for 24 July 2006). These changes are being made following the review of the 2006 criteria promised in the White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future". They introduce two new criteria, one of which relates to climate change and energy and the others to World Heritage Sites.

In future the Secretary of State will consider recovery of appeals involving:

proposals for development of major importance having more than local significance;

proposals giving rise to substantial regional or national controversy;

proposals which raise important or novel issues of development control, and/or legal difficulties;

proposals against which another Government Department has raised major objections or has a major interest;

proposals of major significance for the delivery of the Government's climate change programme and energy policies;

any proposal for residential development of over 150 units or on sites of over five hectares, which would significantly impact on the Government's objective to secure a better balance between housing demand and supply and create high quality, sustainable, mixed and inclusive communities;

proposals which involve any main town centre use or uses (as set out in paragraph 1.8 of PPS6) where that use or uses comprise(s) over $9,000m^2$ gross floor space (either as a single proposal or as part of or in combination with other current proposals), and which are proposed on a site in an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre location (as described in Table 2 of PPS6) that is not in accordance with an up-to-date development plan document prepared in accordance with the policy in PPS6;

proposals for significant development in the green belt;

major proposals involving the winning and working of minerals; and

proposals which would have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a World Heritage Site.

There may on occasion be other cases which merit recovery because of the particular circumstances.

Local Area Agreements

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am announcing today the successful conclusion of local area agreement (LAA) negotiations with all 150 local areas in England. This has been made possible through the sustained commitment and collective enterprise of all involved—across Whitehall, local government, local service providers and communities.

LAAs are about two things: improving the quality of life in local communities and providing better, more responsive, public services. They are at the heart of the Government's commitment to develop a new local performance framework which brings together national standards and priorities set by Government with local priorities informed by the strategy developed by the local authority and its partners. As a planned and shared commitment between central and local government, they provide a real basis for tackling the issues that matter most in local communities.

Today is a key milestone in implementing this framework to deliver Government commitments at a local level, as well as prioritising the issues that are of most concern to local people. This is a real achievement and represents a new way in which Government has been able to focus on what matters most in particular places.

This is not an end in itself. The Government will continue to support local authorities and partners as they devote considerable energy to delivering improvements for our communities.

DEFENCE

Defence Estates

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I would like to announce the publication of "The Defence Estate Development Plan 2008" (DEDP 08) today.

The document may be found at http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/dedp08.php and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

It sets out the framework to 2030, for the coherent development of the estate to meet the future needs of Defence and the priorities for investment and rationalisation arising from it. The DEDP 08 articulates our firm intentions for the short term and more general plans for the longer term. It is therefore an authoritative framework document that will drive future development and complements the Defence estate strategy 2006, "In Trust and On Trust". It is intended that the plan will be reviewed annually within MOD.

The defence estate is a strategic enabler and a key supporting capability that underpins force structures and defence outputs. The DEDP 08 will deliver an estate that supports flexible balanced forces optimised for expeditionary operations, enabling the efficient and effective generation, deployment, sustainment and recovery of military capability. This will be achieved through the development of defence communities. The aim is to have an estate of fewer larger sites in the UK and overseas that will be legislatively compliant, fit for purpose, support both the current and evolving military need and provide value for money. Sustainability remains a key tenet of Government policy and the DEDP 08 reflects the MOD's commitment to this important agenda.

The DEDP 08 sets out MOD's key sites in the core sites baseline and divides this into three categories: the core, retained, or disposal estate, providing a focus for investment. The core estate consists of large bases or groups of sites that have an indefinite operational future, or, individual sites that are expected to support Defence outputs for at least 15 years. The retained estate comprises that body of sites where the future is not fully assured and could be subject to review leading to reuse within the Department or disposal. Many retained sites may have a planning horizon of 10 years or more. The disposal estate consists of those sites already identified as surplus to Defence requirements. However, it is important to recognise that future, unforeseen, events and changed circumstance could mean that sites move both into and out of disposal.

The DEDP 08 makes three underlying assumptions to ensure the maximum scope for innovation. First, that there will be little scope to reduce the existing UK training estate in the short term, as it is vital to the delivery of military capability. Secondly that the MOD is likely to remain committed to maintaining some heavy armour presence in Germany for the next 25 years. Thirdly, that the existing permanent joint operating bases will be required for the foreseeable future.

Finally, the DEDP 08 will be widely available and will help to inform the development of regional spatial strategies, local development frameworks and the devolved authorities. In so doing it will highlight development opportunities and serve to better deliver our future plans through the planning process.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 July:

Pennine Care NHS trust;

Sheffield Care trust;

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS trust; and

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS trust

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts operating in England to 103. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to attain the NHS foundation trust standard as soon as practicable. Monitor is authorising NHS foundation trusts on a monthly basis, and further groups of authorisations are set to follow.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: Q1-January-March 2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fourth full year of freedom of information.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 July 2008

TREASURY

Provisional Outturn Public Expenditure (2007-08)

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): The Treasury will publish the 2007-08 public expenditure provisional outturn White Paper on 15 July.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME), and includes information on individual supply estimates, and administration costs and near-cash limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because, in some cases, they will be revised when Departments publish their final accounts.

A copy of the White Paper will be available in the Libraries of the House and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

Financial Stability/Depositor Protection

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Treasury, with the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority is today publishing "Financial Stability and Depositor Protection: further consultation" (Cm 7436). Copies of this document have been laid before Parliament and are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children and Adoption Act 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): My right hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice, the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the implementation of Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006:

> The provisions relating to Family Assistance Orders and risk assessments were implemented in October 2007.
>
> We plan to implement the remaining provisions in Part 1 of the Act (sections 1 to 5 and 8) relating to new powers for the courts to order 'contact activities' and new enforcement powers in the autumn of 2008.
>
> Some provisions in Part 2 of the Act, relating to adoptions with a foreign element, are already in force. I announced the timetable for the implementation of the provisions in Part 2 relating to the restriction of adoptions from abroad in my statement to the House of 2 April. We are working to a longer timetable for the implementation of section 13 and will announce this in due course.

DEFENCE

Kosovo Operational Reserve Force

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The House will recall that on 29 April 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced the deployment of the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles (2 Rifles) to Kosovo during June as part of our existing commitment to the NATO/EU-shared pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force (ORF).

During this period the security situation in Kosovo has remained calm. There were no significant incidents of inter-ethnic unrest and a number of key political dates passed peacefully. In particular, the implementation of a new constitution represented an historic moment in Kosovo's progress towards establishing itself as a stable, democratic and multi-ethnic state.

Against this background, NATO has now assessed that its Kosovo force has the capability to maintain a safe and secure environment without further recourse to the ORF. As a result, I am pleased to announce that 2 Rifles completed its mission on 30 June 2008 and is in the process of returning to UK. The UK will, however, remain committed to the NATO/EU pan-Balkans ORF until the end of this year, at a lower readiness.

The deployment of the UK ORF Battalion confirmed yet again the professionalism of our armed forces and demonstrated our commitment to the security of Kosovo during a politically sensitive period.

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to inform the House that the Department is releasing the final report of the mild Traumatic Brain Injury Project Team established by the Surgeon General in June 2007. A copy will also be placed in the Library of the House.

I previously informed the House of the conclusions of the project team in my written ministerial statement on 15 January 2008 (*Official Report*, columns 23-24WS). Release of the final report provides further rationale and explanation of the key conclusions that:

> There is no evidence that mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) is having an adverse effect on operational capability within the UK Armed Forces.
>
> The majority of cases of mTBI become symptom-free within two to three weeks and 80 per cent. are symptom-free within three months.
>
> The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) has identified 585 cases of casualties between February 2003 and November 2007 with Traumatic Brain Injury (whether mild, moderate or severe) out of some 36,000 referrals to deployed UK operational emergency departments. This represents 1.6 per cent. of all medical presentations during the period, and 0.5 per cent. of the deployed UK military population.

The report also provides further detail of the actions we have already taken to address mBTI, including the roll-out of a diagnostic and surveillance tool to deployed theatres, and the establishment of a treatment protocol covering information for deployed service personnel, telephone-based support for patients, and outpatient and inpatient treatment at the Defence Medical

Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, which becomes the DMS lead centre for mTBI, re-enforced by ongoing epidemiological and research findings.

The report also describes current research in mTBI relevant to the military environment underway at DSTL, South Tees NHS Trust emergency department, and King's college, London.

Finally, the report and associated historical review and literature review documents will be placed in the Library of the House. They provide a sense of perspective, explaining that mTBI is almost certainly not a new phenomenon, and that it is impossible to draw clear distinctions between organic and psychological effects in the case of brain injury.

As I explained in my previous statement, research continues both here and in the US. Throughout our research we are in touch with United States developments, and collaborate with its researchers as appropriate. I shall keep the House informed of any further significant developments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq: Prisoners

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown has made the following written ministerial statement:

> Pursuant to my answer of 2 June to the question asked by the noble Lord Oakeshott of Seagrove Bay (*Official Report*, 2 June, col WA15), we have continued our search for the records relating to an answer given to the noble Lord by my noble Friend the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean on 6 January 2004.
>
> We have now located the records concerned. The answer was drafted by the Overseas Territories Department and approved by the FCO Minister concerned in the normal way. The background to this answer states that assurances on this issue were given at the annual British Indian Ocean Territory US-UK political-military talks in June 2003, and that officials had tested this assurance with the US embassy in London, the State Department in Washington and the US Commanding Officer on Diego Garcia.

HEALTH

Smoke-Free England

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): On 1 July 2007, legislation was implemented in England to make virtually all enclosed work and public places smoke-free. The primary aim of the legislation was to protect workers and the general public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

The Department has today published the "Smoke-Free England: One year on" report. This report presents a review of smoke-free legislation covering compliance, public opinion, the experience of business in implementing the legislation and academic research into health benefits.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Transport System

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): Since the publication of "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" in October 2007, my Department has been engaging with stakeholders on our longer-term transport strategy post-2014.

In this initial phase of work, views on the goals and challenges that potential transport policies should help meet have been obtained from over 250 organisations throughout the country, as well as from over 600 members of the public who have participated in citizens' panels. Today my officials have sent a letter to all the organisations that participated summarising their contributions. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House Library.

We plan to consult formally on the next phase in our long-term transport planning later this year. This timing is a slight revision from that published in "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" to align better with the timetable in the Climate Change Bill and to ensure the process we develop is robust. In taking this work forward we will also take account of the cross-Government work on developing policies and proposals to deliver the UK's first series of carbon budgets.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 July 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

UK Inward Investment (2007-08)

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): UK Trade and Investment has announced today, in its launch of the UK inward investment results 2007-08, that there were 1,573 direct investments in the UK by foreign owned companies between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 as reported by UK Trade and Investment and its partner agencies in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English Regional Development Agencies. This is an increase of 9.9 per cent. on the year before, and this reconfirms the UK's position as the top investment location in Europe. Overall total associated jobs numbers were up 32 per cent. to 103,539 of which new jobs were up 23 per cent. to 45,051.

This performance reflects the confidence that companies around the world continue to show in the UK business environment. The number of new projects has increased by 9 per cent. from 600 in 2006-07 to 653 in 2007-08, and there were 436 expansions by existing investors—up by 30 per cent. from 334 the previous year.

UK Trade and Investment's five year strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World" has refocused and restructured to concentrate on the areas where Government can make the most difference to maintain and grow the UK economy. For inward investment, UK Trade and Investment is targeting high value, innovative inward investment and entrepreneurial talent, especially research and development projects that match and enhance UK strengths. The UK has therefore positioned itself as a springboard for global growth for companies seeking to grow internationally from a UK base.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment Report 2007-08 to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

DCMS Engagement

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): I am announcing changes to the way my Department organises its work within the English regions. Our aim is to ensure that we concentrate our expenditure on front-line services. We also want to strengthen collaboration between the public agencies for culture, media and sport, so that there is effective and efficient engagement at both regional and local level in policy and programme development and delivery.

I have reviewed the collaborative work of DCMS public bodies at regional level. The Secretary of State and I have decided that the four DCMS bodies which have a significant regional presence should work with key partners, such as local authorities and the Regional Development Agencies, to agree shared priorities and the action they need to take. These bodies are the Arts Council England, Sport England, English Heritage and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. They will be specifically charged to work together on matters relevant to the DCMS agenda, and they will bring in other agencies and DCMS bodies where that would add value to work they are doing.

The DCMS bodies will contribute in relation to culture and sport in the following priority areas:

regional strategies;

improving relationships with local authorities and developing services in partnership with local authorities;

place shaping; and

2012 and the cultural Olympiad.

The agencies will build on the joint working begun by the Regional Cultural Consortia. The consortia have achieved a great deal—strengthening the role of culture and sport in regional strategies and building networks, and the Secretary of State and I value those achievements. We have, however, decided that it is now time to switch funding from the administrative costs of Regional Cultural Consortia into grants for front-line delivery in all parts of England from the end of this financial year. We expect the consortia to be wound up as a consequence and we will assist that process, meeting reasonable costs of securing it and providing funding to our non-Departmental public bodies to set up the new arrangements.

The precise nature of the new arrangements in each region will be negotiated regionally by the directors of the four key public bodies. This will enable each region to build upon their existing strengths and determine their own priorities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Vetinary Laboratories Agency (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency will be laid before Parliament today.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 July 2008

TREASURY

Operational Efficiency Programme

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): Today I am launching the operational efficiency programme, the latest phase of our drive to ensure that taxpayers receive maximum value for money from the services they fund.

This builds on the Gershon efficiency programme which has delivered £20 billion of savings to date, and the ambitious programme announced at the comprehensive spending review which will deliver £30 billion of savings by 2010-11. The operational efficiency programme will seek to learn from private and public sector expertise and experience to explore whether additional operational savings could be achieved as we prepare for the next spending period. Martin Read, Martin Jay, Gerry Grimstone and Lord Carter of Coles will lead work on the first four cross-cutting work strands, looking at back office and IT; collaborative procurement; asset management and sales; and property respectively. It will also be taking forward work in a fifth area: the incentives for staff to bring forward improvements and cut waste at the local level and what more can be done to reduce bureaucratic burdens on the front line.

The programme will report at Budget 2009 and will drive our value for money programme forward into the next spending review.

Copies of the operational efficiency programme prospectus have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available from the Vote Office.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Plan

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In the children's plan, which I presented to Parliament in December 2007, the Government set out their ambition to make this country the best place in the world for young people to grow up. As part of this, we committed to world-class standards in education; a new role for schools as the centre of their communities; and more effective links between schools, health and other children's services, brought together by children's trusts in every area, so that together they can tackle all the barriers to the learning, health and happiness of every child.

Today we are taking the next steps to make a reality of these ambitions, and are publishing three consultation documents, copies of which I have placed in the Library of the House. They each draw heavily on the experience, best practice and views of local authorities, schools and other key partners, for which I am most grateful.

Schools have traditionally taken a broad view of education as the development of the whole child, in order to tackle all the barriers to learning inside and outside the school, so that every child can fulfil their potential and get the good qualifications they need. The Government have supported this by placing on schools a duty to promote the well-being of their pupils. This means they have a duty to support the development of all their pupils across all five Every Child Matters outcomes, so that they are healthy, safe, able to enjoy and achieve their potential, secure economically, and can make a positive contribution.

The first of the three consultation documents is draft guidance to schools which explains in more detail what is meant by 'promoting well-being' and what support schools should expect from their local authority and other partners in their children's trust. At the heart of the children's plan is the vision of a '21st century school': a school which achieves high standards and embraces its role in the wider development of young people, in support of its core mission of ensuring through excellent teaching and learning that all children achieve their potential, and in partnership with parents, other schools and other local agencies. Schools need to be well supported by, and able to work effectively with, a range of other partners including statutory services and the voluntary and community sector, and children's trust arrangements are intended to bring together all these services locally.

The second document consults on how we should strengthen children's trusts in order to deliver for all children and young people: to ensure schools consistently get the timely support they need; to narrow gaps in outcomes between disadvantaged young people and their peers; and to take action early where children have additional needs. A great deal is being achieved by leading local areas within the existing framework, and the challenge now is to ensure that good practice is widely implemented and deeply embedded. There is now a strong case for strengthening the statutory basis of children's trusts on the model of existing good practice.

Schools are key partners for children's trusts at the local and neighbourhood level, and are well placed to give early warning when things are going wrong for young people. To achieve the objectives of the children's plan, schools must be effectively supported by wider children's services and involved in determining the strategic direction and commissioning arrangements for those services at board level. Strong collaborative working of this kind is generally welcomed in principle, but in practice can be difficult to achieve. This was a key message from our recent consultation on our draft supplementary guidance to local authorities and others on the 'duty to co-operate' (children's trust guidance).

The second document proposes a number of changes to the current framework for children's trusts. These include extending responsibility for children and young people's plans and being clearer about what they should cover, extending the 'duty to co-operate' to schools, and requiring through statute the creation of children's trust boards with a defined set of functions and responsibilities. Our proposals include:

requiring all areas to have a children's and young people's plan, and extending ownership of the plan to all statutory partners. Children's and young people's plans are currently local authority plans, although they must consult with other partners and the plans must cover the full range of outcomes for children

> Extending responsibility for the plan to all partners covered by the 'duty to co-operate' would mean that the plan becomes the shared responsibility of the children's trust board;
>
> strengthening the statutory framework for children's and young people's plans through secondary legislation. This could include clarifying that plans must be agreed by all partners, set out the arrangements for early intervention, including for the children's workforce and specify the spend of each partner on areas such as child health and youth offending, in particular those covered by local joint commissioning arrangements. This would establish a higher baseline for the quality of plans in line with the best practice already established in many areas;
>
> extending the 'duty to co-operate' to schools, to schools forums and to sixth form and further education colleges, with future academies brought within scope through their funding agreements. This duty currently applies to local authorities, primary care trusts and other strategic partners. Extending the duty to front line providers of education would give them corresponding rights within trusts to a stronger voice, more influence over their strategic arrangements, and better support from other statutory partners;
>
> establishing a stronger statutory basis for children's trust boards, on the model of existing good practice and with significant local flexibility. Leading local areas have already put in place children's trust boards which have the representation and functions that primary or secondary legislation could prescribe for all. Setting out core membership and functions in legislation could help secure more consistent performance and more robust operation of children's trusts. An alternative would be to create reserve powers for Ministers to direct areas when local arrangements are not operating successfully.

I have invited comments on these proposals, and also on what other changes to primary or secondary legislation should be considered in this area, for example to ensure the voluntary and third sectors can play a full role in local children's services.

The third document relates specifically to the local authority's strategic leadership role in promoting high standards in education, as established by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This is a key part of their wider role in promoting the well-being of all children and young people in their local area. The 2006 Act provides the current legal framework for schools causing concern, and makes a crucial contribution to school improvement by enabling early action by local authorities to improve school performance.

Local authorities may already consider a formal warning notice which allows them to employ a range of intervention powers, even where OFSTED has not graded the school as 'inadequate'. It is important that these powers are used when it is appropriate, because they are designed to address issues where schools are under-performing before they become more serious. As announced to Parliament on 10 June 2008 as part of our national challenge proposals, the Government therefore propose, subject to the agreement of Parliament, to take a new legislative power in the forthcoming Education and Skills Bill to require authorities to consider formal warning notices when these are clearly justified by the school's performance, and also proposes to extend the current power to require authorities to take additional advisory services where this is necessary.

The children's plan set out a vision in which local authorities, schools and other local providers work together and support each other, both in setting the direction and in driving delivery. The three documents published today, taken together, gives us a framework that will help make this vision a reality. The consultations will remain open until 25 September 2008.

DEFENCE

Future Aircraft Carriers

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I informed the House on 20 May (*Official Report*, column 15WS) of our intention to sign the contracts for the manufacture of the aircraft carriers HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales once the proposed joint venture BVT surface fleet had formed. I am pleased to inform the House that following formation of the company, we will today sign the contract and alliance agreement for manufacture of the two future aircraft carriers. The carriers will support a step change in our ability to project expeditionary air power over the coming decades and during their construction are expected to create or sustain 10,000 jobs across the UK.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine and Fisheries Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) the following performance targets for 2008-09:

Quality service delivery

> Licensing and monitoring of coastal and marine developments and activities to protect the marine environment and secure benefits from its use.

Marine works

> Deploy inspection resources in line with risk weightings.
>
> Provide an initial response to 75 per cent. of application within 12 weeks of the receipt of complete applications summarising the responses to the consultation process and listing any replies still outstanding for which an extended response date has been agreed.

Marine minerals

> Issue a screening determination on 80 per cent. of marine minerals applications within six weeks of receipt of the application.

Renewables

> Confirm with applicants, in writing, when the negotiation stage of the renewables FEPA licensing progress has concluded and inform them of the licence decision within six weeks of the correspondence date.

Marine pollution incident

> Decision to use oil spill treatment product made within one hour of request.
>
> Effective management and regulation of sea fisheries to secure a sustainable future.

Fishing vessel licensing

> Issue 100 per cent. of over 10 metre licences biennially by 23 March and 100 per cent. of under 10 metre licences biennially by 30 June.

Quota management

> No overfishing of quota stocks by vessels or groups for which the agency has management responsibilities and which results in EU deduction or infraction proceedings against the UK.

Sea fisheries enforcement

> Deploy enforcement and inspection resources in line with risk weightings and undertake monitoring, control and surveillance activities leading to inspection based on risk and intelligence.

Fisheries data

> Enter 90 per cent. of information on catches and fishing activity onto the fisheries database within five working days of receipt of all necessary information.

Value for public money

Implement new requirements for administrative penalties system and electronic reporting system from within existing resources.

Capacity and capability

Improve the agency's capacity to deliver its services and develop its people through a comprehensive training and development programme.

Further details are given in the MFA business plan for 2008-09, copies of which will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Pitsford Water Treatment Works

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): During my Oral Statement on 25 June (column 301), I answered a question concerning the water supply incident at Pitsford water treatment works in Northamptonshire. I would like to update the House on the latest position. Following the detection of cryptosporidium at the sampling point for the plant, Anglian Water notified the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) of an increase in risk to consumers. The clear advice I have received from the chief inspector of drinking water, is that there is no contamination of the water supply. However, a precautionary 'boil water notice' has been in place since 25 June as a result of a notified increase in risk reported by Anglian Water to the Drinking Water Inspectorate. I am pleased to report that all relevant agencies appear to have worked extremely well together to respond to this notification. I understand that Anglian Water are ahead of schedule for returning supplies to normal and will tell customers as soon as is practicable about the lifting of the boil notice.

Single Payment Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): As at 30 June, the end of the regulatory payment window for the 2007 Single Payment Scheme, a total of £1.431 billion, representing some 98.7 per cent. of the estimated total fund, had been paid in full payments to 103,485 (97 per cent.) claimants.

These figures confirm that the agency has helped to ensure that the UK as a whole has met the EU requirement that 96.154 per cent. of 2007 scheme payments be made by 30 June. This follows earlier confirmation that the agency had met its formal performance targets for this scheme year as set out in the statement of my hon. Friend the Member for Brent North (Barry Gardiner), on 26 June 2007 (*Official Report*, column 20WS).

Reaching these targets demonstrates a continued improvement in RPA performance and is another important step towards the agency again providing an acceptable level of service to its customers. I am very grateful to RPA staff who have worked long and hard to make this happen.

Of the outstanding 2007 claims on which processing is not complete, approximately 700 are expected to result in a payment in due course. Work continues to complete the necessary validation of those claims as soon as possible. Interest will be paid to claimants on sums paid after 30 June on the same basis as for the 2005 and 2006 schemes.

Alongside that work, RPA has already begun processing the 106,000 or so claims that have been submitted under the 2008 SPS in order to achieve the more challenging targets for payments—set out in the statement of my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) on 18 June 2008 (*Official Report*, column 51WS)—which also take account of the fact that some corrective work remains to be carried out on a proportion of claims.

Against this background, I would again like to thank the farming industry for its continuing support and patience.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Terrorist Suspects (Rendition)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): On 21 February I made a statement to the House regarding new information we had been passed by the United States Government regarding rendition. Contrary to earlier assurances that Diego Garcia had not been used for rendition flights, United States investigations had revealed two occasions, both in 2002, when this had in fact occurred. Since February, I have corresponded with Secretary Rice on this issue and our officials have continued to work through the details and implications of the new information.

I promised the House that, as part of this process, my officials would compile a list of flights where we had been alerted to concern about rendition through the UK or our overseas territories. The list which they have compiled, containing 391 flights, reflects concerns put to us by hon. Members, members of the public, multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations. Inclusion on this list does not represent an official endorsement of any allegations about a particular flight. On the contrary, US Government flights—as with other Government flights—occur regularly for a variety of purposes. Our intention was to collate in one place those concerns that had been put to us directly. The list was passed to the US on 15 May. I undertook in February to publish the list and have today placed a copy in the Library of the House and published it on the FCO website at www.fco.gov.uk.

The US Government received the list of flights from the UK Government. The US Government confirmed that, with the exception of two cases related to Diego Garcia in 2002, there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the United Kingdom, our overseas territories, or the Crown dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001.

Our US allies are agreed on the need to seek our permission for any future renditions through UK territory. Secretary Rice has underlined to me the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, our overseas territories and Crown dependencies or airspace without first receiving our express permission. We have made clear that we would only grant such permission if we were satisfied that the rendition would accord with UK law and our international obligations. The circumstances of any such request would be carefully examined on a case-by-case basis.

Our intelligence and counter-terrorism relationship with the US is vital to the national security of the United Kingdom. There must and will continue to be the strongest possible intelligence and counter-terrorism relationship between our two countries, consistent with UK law and our international obligations.

JUSTICE

Supreme Court

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I wish to update the House on the construction costs of the Supreme Court for the United Kingdom.

The overall development of the Supreme Court is progressing according to plan and we expect to open the Supreme Court as predicted for the start of the legal year in October 2009.

At the beginning of 2008 some movement to the fabric of the building was found around the parapet and tower at Middlesex Guildhall. Over the years water penetration had reached structural steelwork embedded within the masonry at high level. The steel has corroded causing movement and cracking of the stone facing of the building.

The damage is, I am told, not a significant risk to delivery of the new Supreme Court. Repairing it will increase the overall cost of the building by around £2 million above those costs announced by my predecessor in June 2007.

In 2007, Lord Falconer reported estimated set up costs of £56.9 million (£36.7 million for building work, and £20.2 million for professional adviser fees, programme team costs, furniture, IT services and library costs).

We continue to work closely with Westminster city council and English Heritage to preserve and protect this important building for future generations.

In addition, the security provision at Middlesex Guildhall has been reassessed in line with other high profile central Government and Court buildings in Central London. We expect this to increase the overall construction costs to the programme and will inform the House when we have the final figure.

"Governance of Britain"

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 3 July 2007 (*Official Report*, column 815), the Prime Minister made a statement to Parliament publishing "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper. The Green Paper set out a route map for further constitutional reform, better to strengthen the relationship between Government, Parliament and the citizen, and to take steps towards a new constitutional settlement. This builds on fundamental reforms carried out by the Government since 1997 including devolution for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the transformation of the role of the Lord Chancellor, the introduction of a Supreme Court, the Human Rights Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Renewing our democracy is at the heart of our reforms, building a new relationship between citizens and Government and ensuring that the rights of individuals are fully respected.

One year on, much progress has been made against the Governance of Britain ambitions.

Limiting the powers of the executive

The Government committed to surrendering or limiting powers which it considers should not, in a modern democracy, be exercised exclusively by the executive. We have carried out consultations on Parliament's role in decisions relating to the deployment of the armed forces into armed conflict and the ratification of treaties, the role of the Attorney-General, Government's role in judicial appointments, protest around Parliament and the flying of the Union flag. Alongside the responses to the Government's 2004 consultation on the civil service, these consultations informed the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill and White Paper, which is now being considered by a Joint Committee. The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contains important measures to strengthen Parliament and make Government more accountable to the people it serves. It encompasses five areas of reform, and includes proposals to:

repeal of the provisions in sections 132-138 of Serious and Organised Crime Act on protest around Parliament;

reform the role of the Attorney-General;

reduce the role played by the Lord Chancellor in judicial appointments;

formalise the procedure for Parliament to scrutinise treaties prior to ratification; and

enshrine in statute the core values of the civil service—as well as the historic principle of appointment on merit, and place the Civil Service Commissioners onto a statutory footing.

The Government also want Parliament to have the right to take the final decision about committing armed forces in to armed conflict.

Making the executive more accountable

The Government are committed to rebalancing power between Parliament and Government, and giving Parliament greater ability to hold Government to account. We have:

published the draft legislative programme for scrutiny by Parliament and the public in 2007 and in 2008;

commenced a pilot of pre-appointment hearings for key public appointments and agreed a list of 60 suitable appointments with the Liaison Committee;

published the national security strategy for the first time; and

set up an independent UK Statistics Authority.

Re-invigorating our democracy

It is vital that our institutions are legitimate, trusted and responsive to the people they serve. We have:

established the Youth Citizenship Commission to look at how we can give young people a greater voice, and

committed to extending the provisions in the Sex Discrimination (Electoral Candidates) Act 2002 beyond 2015 to allow women-only shortlists to continue to be used if necessary.

Britain's future: the citizen and the state

The Government believe that a clearer understanding of the common core of rights, responsibilities and values that go with British citizenship will help build our sense of shared identity and social cohesion.

Lord Goldsmith's review of citizenship was launched on 5 October 2007 and reported to the Prime Minister in March 2008.

Constitutional renewal in the UK is a long-term dialogue and in the coming months:

we will publish a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for fundamental reform of the House of Lords, and

Communities and Local Government will publish a White Paper this summer setting out the Government's proposals to empower individuals and communities by involving them in the design and delivery of local public services and promoting civic and democratic life.

Further details of the progress on the commitments in the Green Paper are set out in "The Governance of Britain Green Paper: one year on" table. Copies of this table have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

London Congestion Charge

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave on 7 February to a parliamentary question (*Official Report*, column 1422W) about traffic signs for the central London congestion charging scheme was not sufficiently clear in respect of advance warning signs for the scheme.

The answer should read as follows:

The Department has authorised the design of 28 traffic signs and road markings for the central London congestion charging scheme under sections 64 and 65 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. These designs have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The table below shows when these authorisations were provided:

Traffic signs (numbers)	*Date authorised*
1-18	7 August 2002
19-21	29 November 2002
22	6 January 2005
23	14 November 2005
24-28	1 November 2006

In addition, the Department authorised:

i) the use of sign number six (from above table) with the motorway telephone symbol (Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions diagram 2713.1) (15 January 2003); and

ii) the legend, "avoiding charge", to be placed on advance direction signs (9 May 2005).

There are no drawings for these signs.

The authorisation to place non-prescribed traffic signs in respect of the central London congestion charging scheme (dated 7 August 2002) requires signs indicating the entry and exit of the London charging zone to be placed on or near roads entering or exiting the scheme, and in sufficient numbers and in appropriate positions to indicate to all traffic entering or leaving the zone the nature of the scheme. That direction does not apply to the authorised signs giving advance warning to drivers on the approaches to the zone. Those signs are therefore discretionary.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I would like to inform the House about the future of testing services provided by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) of the Department for Transport.

VOSA plays a key role in the delivery of the Government's road safety strategy through a combination of tests and enforcement to ensure that heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles and their drivers comply with EU and national standards.

The Government have already announced (*Official Report*, 22 April 2008, column 1893W) an additional £24 million funding for enforcement, over three years, to boost VOSA's efforts to crack down on those who fail to comply with these standards, following successful pilots which demonstrated what could be achieved by more focused and targeted enforcement activity.

I am announcing today parallel improvements in the agency's testing services, which are broadly equivalent to the MOT requirement for cars—and equally vital to road safety—based around modernisation and flexibility. The aim is to improve access to good quality test centres, and reduce the time when vehicles are unavailable, so that the industry is helped to comply with road safety laws and operate more efficiently.

Operators can currently choose between presenting vehicles for testing at VOSA stations or—in nearly 20 per cent. of cases—arranging for VOSA staff to deliver the tests at operators' own premises, where vehicles are maintained and run. The current structure of fees incentivises the use of VOSA premises, but the location of these predates the motorways, and many are no longer in the right place for customers. Most are also in need of investment.

My aim is to make both sides of this choice for customers better. First, I want to facilitate more VOSA tests at operators' premises, and at more convenient times. This is a proven model of delivery, with recognised benefits in terms of reduced loss of productive time, and I believe industry will welcome removing constraints on its expansion. I also want to facilitate more VOSA tests at service and maintenance providers' premises, to improve quality of service and choice.

Secondly, for VOSA's own testing stations, the principle must be 'fewer, but better'. I aim quickly to identify those sites for which there is a continuing requirement, so that we can get on with investing and upgrading the service that they can provide. To this end, I am making £28 million available to the agency this year, the greater part of which will go towards modernisation of testing facilities and IT support, and I can announce that up to a further £36 million will be available over the next two years to support the agency's investment requirements.

Upgrading customer service is not just a matter of improving facilities. Work by the agency has also identified the scope for improving the way in which business is done, for example by extending opening hours and benchmarking between test stations. I intend to increase choice for customers not just about where testing is done, but also when. Customers should be more able to access testing at times that provide least disruption to the commercial scheduling of their vehicles.

My purpose in making this statement has been firstly to resolve the uncertainty that has existed about VOSA's future while different organisational options were being reviewed. With that work now completed, I see a clear agenda to be taken forward by a public sector VOSA. There will be call on private sector skills to help with specialised tasks like estate refurbishment, but I am confident that the main changes are ones that VOSA has the flexibility and commitment to drive through.

Having set out a clear direction, it is important now to have dialogue with the freight industry and others about the detailed implementation. The intention is to develop a more detailed and timetabled plan for these changes by the autumn, and I will invite industry views in taking that work forward.

My aim, which is fully shared by the dedicated staff of the agency, is to create a testing service fit for the 21st century. Building on VOSA's undoubted strengths, we will improve customer service, optimise delivery by investment and increasing flexibility, and so achieve better testing and lower costs of compliance.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 7 July 2008

TREASURY

Financial Capability

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): The Treasury and the Financial Services Authority are today publishing "Helping you make the most of your money: a joint action plan for financial capability". This sets out how the Government and the FSA will support people in the short term with practical help on their money questions and worries—before they turn into problems—and to equip them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to manage their money well, now and in the future.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are available in the Vote Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey (Performance Targets 2008-09)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The following performance targets have been set for Ordnance Survey in 2008-09.

Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of agency performance monitors as required of all Executive agencies in Government:

To achieve an operating profit before exceptional items, interest and dividends of £15.7 million for the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

Some 99.6 per cent. of significant real-world features are represented in the database within six months of completion.

To continuously improve the timeliness of the supply of Ordnance Survey's data to customers with a success rate not lower than 97 per cent.

To reduce carbon emissions from Ordnance Survey headquarters by 30 per cent. against the base year of 2000-01 by March 2009.

To achieve an improvement of 5 per cent. in online business on planned 2007-08 baseline transaction levels (for example, a rise from 94,816 to 99,557 transactions) through Ordnance Survey's OS MasterMap service and consumer e-commerce platform.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, improved value for money for all of its stakeholders and commitment to Government policies.

DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence Agencies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): Key targets for the financial year 2008-09 for the following Ministry of Defence agencies have been placed in the Library of the House:

Defence Vetting Agency
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency
People Pay and Pensions Agency
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Key targets in respect of Service Children's Education will be published shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Security

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): In summer 2007, the Prime Minister asked the Strategy Unit to take forward a project on food and food policy.

The terms of reference for the project were: to review the main trends in food production and consumption in the UK; to analyse the implications of those trends for the economy, society and the environment (including analysing the main drivers of change); to assess the robustness of the current policy framework for food; and to review what should be the objectives of future food strategy and the measures needed to achieve them.

Today the Strategy Unit has published its final report on food. It sets out a series of proposals that will be taken forward within Government.

DEFRA will be leading work with the agriculture sector to look at ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change, with the food supply chain to reduce food and packaging waste, and with stakeholders in the food system—primary producers, food manufacturers, retailers, and consumers—to develop ideas for the future.

The Department of Health will be taking forward work to promote healthier eating with consumers and working with the food industry to increase consumption of fruit and vegetables. They will also lead on developing nutritional standards for food provided through public sector catering.

The Food Standards Agency will take forward work to make it easier for consumers to get Government information and advice on a healthy, environmentally sustainable diet. The FSA will improve information on healthier choice options from shopping for food to eating out, and will develop a "whole food chain approach" to food safety.

The Cabinet Office will take a central role in co-ordinating the implementation and delivery of the actions announced in the Strategy Unit's report, through a new Food Strategy Task Force.

In addition, DEFRA will shortly publish a discussion paper on the UK's food security.

A copy of the Strategy Unit report will be deposited in the Library of the House and is available on the Cabinet Office's website.

HEALTH

Modernising Medical Careers

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Today, the Government have laid before Parliament their response to the report from the Health Select Committee on Modernising Medical Careers (MMC), Cm 7338.

The Department has already apologised for the difficulties encountered in 2007. It is crucial that Government learn lessons from these problems, rebuild their relationship with the medical profession at all levels and, in consultation with them, design the best possible structure and systems for recruiting and training doctors in future.

We are grateful to those who have carefully investigated the background to what went wrong in 2007. This includes the Health Committee itself and also Professor Sir John Tooke who was commissioned by the Department to carry out an independent review of MMC and who published his final report in January this year.

While acknowledging that we have some way to go, it is important to record that much progress has been made over the past year—not least through the crucial work of the MMC England programme board which has produced a recruitment and selection process which is both more equitable and has the broad support of the medical profession.

We are grateful for the Select Committee's recognition that the MMC England programme board has offered the medical profession a more meaningful role in decision-making, and that MMC governance arrangements have been simplified and improved.

We agree with the Committee that the "mixed economy" model for specialist training structures—offering both run-through and uncoupled training posts—should continue for the time being.

A stakeholder event on this important issue was held on 3 June to meet the aim of working with the profession and building consensus on the way forward. There was broad agreement from participants that there should be no rush to introduce changes in 2009 although further work and debate are needed.

With regard to recruitment and selection, we agree that responsibility should be devolved to deaneries with some elements of central co-ordination and guidance and we further agree that there should be a staged recruitment process established in the future, expanding the additional flexibility which has already been built into the process for this year.

The House of Lords ruling on 30 April prevented the implementation of long-standing policy guidance for managing access to specialty training posts by doctors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA). However, there is wide consensus that Government intervention is necessary and justified to maximise the training opportunities for UK-trained doctors. The changes to the immigration rules announced by the Home Office in February 2008 have been well received by the medical profession and will stand while we discuss with all those involved how best to resolve this issue.

We have noted and considered carefully the proposals put forward by both Sir John Tooke and the Health Committee regarding the establishment of NHS Medical Education England (NHSMEE) and the future of the MMC England programme board.

There is a clear future for both types of organisation, NHSMEE providing high-level direction setting and scrutiny and the programme board continuing its successful focus on the operational implementation of policy.

Our proposals for NHSMEE contain some changes to the remit originally envisaged by Sir John but both the original case and counter-arguments both had strengths. In respect of the programme board, responsibility for operational requirements and the implementation of policy will be devolved to the NHS and operational elements of the existing Department of Health MMC team devolved to the control of a strategic health authority (SHA) on behalf of the NHS in a way that carefully ensures business continuity of a function which is recognised as having made progress.

JUSTICE

Illicit Drugs (Prisons)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In the "Prison Policy Update" document published in January this year I announced a major drive to overcome some of the principal barriers to the reform and rehabilitation of offenders. As part of that I asked the director general of the then Prison Service to commission a review of the supply of illicit drugs into prisons. As a result, Mr. David Blakey, a former inspector of constabulary and chief constable of West Mercia, was commissioned to conduct a review into the effectiveness of HM Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of drugs into prisons, and to make recommendations for improvements. I am grateful to Mr. Blakey for his considered and well-targeted report.

The report makes 10 recommendations, ranging from suggestions to roll out mobile phone blocking technology to fostering the good work we have been taking forward in intelligence. The director general of the National Offender Management Service and I have accepted all of the recommendations and I have asked him to implement them as soon as practicable.

Disruption of supply is just one part of the NOMS drug strategy for prisons. The strategy has three key elements:

reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers;

reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;

establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the national treatment agency's revised "Models of Care", to address the different needs of drug misusers in prison. Treatment interventions include: clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing); CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services)—a range of interventions that, following assessment, deliver treatment and support; and drug rehabilitation programmes which focus on addressing the attitudes and behaviour of drug misusers.

Copies of the Blakey report and the full, detailed Government response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Both documents are also available at: http://www.justice.gov.uk .

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 July 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 8 July 2008. Items on the agenda are as follows:

Presidency Work Programme

The French Presidency will present the ECOFIN work programme for the next six months.

Implementation of the stability and growth pact

The Council will be asked to adopt opinions on the updated stability programme for Belgium and the updated convergence programme for Poland, as well as a decision putting an end to the excessive deficit procedure for Poland. In addition the Council will be asked to agree to a decision and recommendations under article 104(7) of the EC treaty with regard to the UK.

Adoption of the euro by Slovakia

The Council will adopt legislative acts required for the adoption of the euro by Slovakia. The adoption will finalise the procedure foreseen by article 122 of the treaty establishing the European Community. The Council (meeting at the level of Heads of State or Government in the margins of the June European Council) gave its guidance on this issue on 19 June. Ministers will first vote on the legislative acts and, if successful, will decide on the exchange rate as recommended by the Commission. The UK congratulates Slovakia on the substantial reforms they have made in order to meet the Maastricht criteria.

Oil price trends

Following the June European Council and in advance of the report for the October European Council, Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the situation in the oil and fuel markets. This will also cover the role of ECOFIN in preparing the October and December European Councils. The UK supports the work underway to better understand what is driving the development of oil prices.

Governance of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

The IASB launched a public consultation on the issue of its own governance in May. The Council will provide the European perspective and will prepare a European contribution to the public consultation on IASB. The UK supports the efforts to improve internal processes and governance within the IASB, principally through improving the oversight arrangements for the International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation (IASCF).

Financial markets: situation and implementation of the Council road map

The Commission will present the state of play on the Council road map agreed in the October 2007 ECOFIN Council conclusions. This will cover the items for which the deadline was set at mid-2008. These items include credit rating agencies and the transparency of markets on the level of their losses and risks. Conclusions have been agreed in which member states look forward to further work on transparency and on credit rating agencies in the autumn.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (Bercow Report)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Secretary of State for Health and I today welcome the publication of the Bercow report on services for children and young people with speech, language and communications needs (SLCN). A copy of the report will be placed in the Library.

In September 2007, we asked John Bercow MP to advise us on the range of universal and specialist services to best identify and meet the diversity of needs of children and young people with SLCN; how planning and performance management arrangements and effective co-operation between Government Departments and responsible local agents can be used to promote early intervention and to improve services; and examples of good practice in commissioning and delivering services which are responsive to the needs of children, young people and families.

We welcomed the interim report that John Bercow MP published on 20 March 2008, which identified five key themes: communication is crucial; early identification and intervention are essential; the need for a continuum of services, designed around the family; that joint working between agencies is critical; and the current system is characterised by high levels of variability and a lack of equity.

The final Bercow report, published today, sets out 40 recommendations to improve services for children with SLCN under these five themes. We support fully the report's call for action to raise the profile of speech, language and communications across Government, local agencies and wider society and to improve services for children and young people with SLCN.

We accept the report's key recommendations:

Improve understanding that communication is critical through the creation of a Communication Council, to monitor and support implementation of the recommendations, and a Communication Champion to lead on awareness raising, including a National Year of Speech, Language and Communication by 2011; a set of measures to improve information, support and advice to parents about the importance of speech, language and, communications, including through the Child Health Promotion Programme;

Ensure early identification and intervention through monitoring of children to identify potential SLCN across the age range; reviewing the Personal Child Health Record so that there is a

> clear record of a child's speech development; and promoting examples of how barriers to pupils with SLCN accessing the curriculum have been overcome.
>
> How to design a continuum of services around the family by developing a joint commissioning framework for universal, targeted and specialist services through pathfinders, supported by other action to build on the national service framework standard for disabled children and young people; the current review of the Dedicated School Grant should consider how the funding system supports the delivery of services for children with SLCN; the new Masters in Teaching and Learning has core elements and a module including speech, language and communication; and that there should be a programme of research to enhance the evidence base for improving outcomes for children with SLCN.
>
> How to promote more and better joint working through effective functioning of children's trusts, including a recommendation to them to appoint a senior lead on speech, language and communication issues.
>
> How to ensure greater consistency and equity for families by better monitoring of performance by commissioners and publication of accessible data, for instance on educational attainment by children with SLCN.

The "Child Health Strategy", which will be published in September, will seek to address the real issues that the report has raised about the commissioning and provision of equipment and aids for children with complex needs.

We are announcing today that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Health will together commit £12 million to lead action to take forward the recommendations up to and including the National Year of Speech, Language and Communication by 2011. In addition, the DCSF are investing £40 million in the "Every Child A Talker" programme, to ensure that early years practitioners are better able to access training and materials to support children's speaking and listening skills from birth to 5. My Department has already asked Sir Jim Rose to examine how schools can better focus on speech, language and communication as part of his review of the primary curriculum.

A full implementation plan will be produced in the autumn.

The Secretary of State for Health and I thank John Bercow MP, and his expert advisers, for the way the review was conducted, with extensive consultations and a programme of visits; it provides a benchmark for future reviews. The recommendations in the final report have the potential to transform the lives of children and young people with SLCN and their families and we are committed to delivering the changes required to achieve this.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The next relief in place of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in October 2008. The force package that we currently plan to deploy will see the lead formation, 16 Air Assault Brigade, replaced by 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, which will command the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The new force elements deploying include:

3 Commando Brigade Headquarters, Royal Marines
Elements of the Naval Strike Wing
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron
42 Commando Royal Marines
45 Commando Royal Marines
United Kingdom Landing Force Command and Support Group
Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines
1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery
24 Commando Engineer Regiment
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles
1st Battalion The Rifles
3 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
114th Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of the Queen's Royal Lancers
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 26th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32 Engineer Regiment
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 35 Engineer Regiment
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 22nd Signal Regiment
Elements of 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Elements of 7 Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Headquarters, 104 Logistic Brigade
Elements of 9 Supply Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 101 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 103 Military Working Dog Support Unit
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of 4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)
Elements of 6th Battalion The Rifles
Elements to man 904 Expeditionary Air Wing, Royal Air Force
4 Force Protection Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force
1 Regiment Field Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 4 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 39 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 70 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements to man the Tactical Supply Wing
Elements to man the Joint Helicopter Support Unit
Elements of 1 Air Movements Wing, Royal Air Force

Elements of 85 (Expeditionary Logistic) Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 Motor Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of Mobile Catering Support Unit
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of Tactical Armament Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing
Elements of Joint Medical Command

The above represent either direct replacements for capabilities already in place in Afghanistan or comprise elements of the force level increases that I announced to the House on 16 June 2008.

Volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package, and we expect to have eventually issued in the order of 620 call-out notices to fill around 560 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for six or so months, although some may have shorter tours. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 25 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

The House will also wish to be aware that 3 Commando Brigade's deployment will last until April 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Prospects for the European Union in 2008

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper "Prospects for the European Union in 2008: French Presidency". Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can also be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk .

The last White Paper was published in January 2008. It focused primarily on the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency. The White Paper I am laying before the House today looks at the priorities of the French Presidency for the latter half of 2008.

The French Presidency has set out a challenging agenda covering a wide range of areas, building on the positive successes of the Slovenian Presidency. The Presidency offers a significant opportunity to work closely together on a number of key issues.

On climate change and energy security the Presidency aims to reach agreement on the 2020 climate change package, the text of the internal market energy package, the strategic energy review. The Presidency will continue work on tackling the challenge of food and oil prices, and the credit crunch. These are key issues for the UK Government and one which we will work hard with EU partners to reach agreement on. The Presidency will also look to agree a way forward on the Lisbon treaty during the next six months.

In addition, the Presidency will consider the way ahead on the Lisbon agenda for jobs and growth, within the context of increased economic uncertainty, climate change, and competition from emerging economies. It will be important in this to focus on delivering reforms which help EU citizens to take advantage of the opportunities, and meet the challenges, presented by globalisation. We will work closely with the Presidency to assist them in taking this forward, rooted in a Global Europe approach.

The EU will continue to work with international partners to address the challenges such as those posed by Zimbabwe, Burma, Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East Peace Process.

JUSTICE

Civil Justice Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am today announcing that Dr. Jonathan Spencer CB has submitted his report of his independent review of the Civil Justice Council on 24 June 2008. I welcome the report and accept the thrust of the recommendations. I have asked my officials to work closely with the Council to develop a suitable action plan for their implementation. The report recommends retention of the Council as an advisory public body but with a series of changes, set out in 27 recommendations for action. These are designed to increase the relevance, value and visibility of the Council's work to users of the civil justice system. They aim to achieve this in particular by increasing the user element in the Council's membership, and by increasing the user influence over its programmes of work, while retaining the technical expertise of the legal and judicial members of the Council and its committees.

I am particularly pleased that the report acknowledges the value of the Council's work and achievements so far and I am confident that the implementation of the recommendations will be a major step towards its further development.

The report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report and further information about the review can be found at the Ministry of Justice website: http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/civil-justice-intro.htm .

TRANSPORT

Heathrow Consultation

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): The 2003 White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" made clear that given the economic benefits to the UK, the Government support the further development of Heathrow by adding a third runway and exploring the scope for making greater use of the existing runways, subject to meeting strict local conditions on air quality and noise and improving public transport access.

Last November, I published a major consultation on the future expansion of Heathrow airport. The consultation invited views on:

a revised proposal for a third runway and associated passenger terminal facilities, and the Government's assessment of how the strict local environmental conditions mentioned above could be met;

a proposal to introduce 'mixed mode' on Heathrow's existing two runways as an interim measure and the Government's assessment of how the same strict local environmental conditions could be met. In considering the 'mixed mode' options the consultation looked at the position with or without additional air traffic movements;

the results of a review of operational procedures on the existing runways 'westerly preference' (the preferred direction of operation) and the 'Cranford agreement' (which generally prohibits easterly departures off the northern runway)—irrespective of any further changes; and

an assessment of the effects of night-time rotation between westerly and easterly preference, and of the current trial of runway alternation in the 0600 to 0700 period.

Almost 70,000 individuals and organisations representing all sides of the debate responded to the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation, which my officials are still analysing. That process is itself also subject to quality assurance and peer review to ensure its integrity.

We also want to be sure, given the socio-demographic mix in the Heathrow area, that we fully understand how airport development might affect different groups in terms of race, disability, age or gender. An initial screening exercise has been conducted to look at the potentially different effects of the proposals. Further work is now being undertaken to deliver a full equalities impact assessment. We will shortly engage in a consultative exercise, focused on these particular groups.

Our work on analysing the consultation responses, on completing the equalities impact assessment, and finalising the overall impact assessment will take some more time to complete. But I intend to inform the House of my decision on the future development of Heathrow airport before the end of the year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 July 2008

JUSTICE

Pleural Plaques

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Government have today published a consultation paper "Pleural Plaques".

The consultation paper considers what the most appropriate way of supporting people diagnosed with pleural plaques would be, following the Law Lords' decision on 17 October 2007 that pleural plaques are not actionable or compensatable damage.

The paper proposes action to improve understanding of pleural plaques and to provide support and reassurance to those diagnosed with pleural plaques to help allay their concerns. It considers the issues that arise in relation to changing the law of negligence and invites views on whether this would or would not be appropriate. It also seeks views on the merits of offering no fault financial support to people diagnosed with pleural plaques and on two possible ways of doing this.

We would welcome responses to the paper from hon. Members and from all those with an interest in this important issue.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. They can also be obtained free on the Ministry's website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/index.htm.

The closing date for consultation is 1 October 2008.

National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The "Governance of Britain" Green Paper, which was published in July 2007, set out the Government's proposals for the next stages of constitutional renewal. A major theme running through the Green Paper is the importance of reinvigorating democracy. Active participation by as many people as possible is essential for a healthy democracy as it encourages a shared understanding, builds cohesion and instils confidence in the institutions and the people who are elected to represent us.

The Government recognise that the demands on our democracy are evolving. People are less engaged with the formal democratic process. Some, particularly disadvantaged groups and younger people, are increasingly unlikely to vote at elections. Others are channelling their political activity beyond voting and party politics to protest groups and single-issue campaigns. The Government want to address these challenges by increasing opportunities for people to participate in the decision-making process between elections and in ways that also encourage participation by those whose voices are not often heard.

Today I am publishing a discussion paper which sets out a proposed framework for the use of innovative engagement mechanisms by national government. The paper includes a range of proposals for the application of deliberative engagement methods—citizens' summits and juries—to inform the process of national policy making. Finally, there are proposals for a strengthened petitioning process for the House of Commons.

Involving the public in debates and decision-making on national issues can serve to reinforce and strengthen our democracy. But the Government are not suggesting that people should be asked to take the decisions they elect their MPs to make—Parliament should always have the final say on major national issues. We believe that, over time, these proposals will encourage greater involvement, provide people with opportunities to participate in collective debate on issues and lead to a greater understanding of the value of parliamentary democracy.

Both the "Empowerment" White Paper, which is also published today, and this proposed National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement will increase opportunities for people to take part in decision-making—in their local communities and by influencing national Government. The Government are keen to gather views from Parliament and the public on the content of this discussion paper. Copies of the discussion paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/citizen-engagement.htm

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Fast Stream

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): The 2007 "Fast Stream Recruitment Report" is published online at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library and are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 is published today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I lay today before Parliament the third annual report of the financial assistance scheme. This report covers the administration of the fund from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 July 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Energy Council

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): I represented the UK at the informal Energy Council that took place in Paris on 4 to 5 July. This was held back to back with an informal Environment Council, reflecting the priority the French are giving to the climate change and energy package during their presidency. Both meetings were chaired by Jean-Louis Borloo, French Minister for the Environment and Energy. The European Parliament rapporteurs for the various elements of the package were also present.

The main focus of discussion was the renewables directive, including specific debates on biofuels and the flexibilities required for the EU to achieve the 20 per cent. renewable energy target in a cost-effective way. National experiences were also exchanged on energy efficiency and Ministers received a presentation on energy security by Claude Mandil, former head of the IEA, commissioned by the French to produce a report to inform the forthcoming EU strategic energy review.

During the debate on renewables, there was a large degree of consensus on the importance of meeting the targets cost-effectively. There was also widespread recognition that this can only be achieved with some level of exchange between member states allowing countries with potentially expensive domestic renewables resource to buy them more cheaply elsewhere in the EU. There was general agreement among ministers that a UK/Germany/Poland proposal for a system of exchange between member states represented a promising way forward.

A short debate on biofuels followed. I used the opportunity to highlight the key findings of the Gallagher review. There was a discussion on the perceived link between the increased use of biofuels and food prices. It was emphasised that the 10 per cent. objective in the draft directive is for the use of renewable energy in transport, and not a 10 per cent. share of biofuel in transport fuel by 2020; so electric vehicles could also play a part in achieving this target. Several member states agreed that the proposed sustainability regime proposed for biofuels should be more demanding in order to ensure genuine sustainability of biofuels and highlighted the importance of the availability of second generation biofuels in this regard.

Earlier we had a debate on energy efficiency with representatives of NGOs, business and MEPs. There were several presentations on what individual member states were doing domestically (I spoke about the UK's carbon reduction commitment scheme), and a general agreement that more effort had to be put into energy efficiency both at national and EU level.

Departmental Staff Training Costs

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I answered the hon. Member for Fareham's parliamentary question on 12 June 2008 (*Official Report*, column 414W) on BERR departmental training.

We said that the staff training costs incurred by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Agencies were £1,714,000 in the last 12 months and £8,443,000 for the previous five years. This figure was also quoted in my letter of 12 June 2008, to the hon. Member for Fareham. A copy of this letter was placed in the Libraries of the House.

These costs were taken from the Department's consolidated resource accounts for the years in question, which for 2007-08 were in draft at the time of my reply. Furthermore, the consolidated resource accounts do not include the expenditure of Companies House, whose accounts are published separately. Using updated figures, staff training costs for the Department's agencies were £1,999,000 for 2007-08, and £8,774,000 for the previous five years.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Meals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I am pleased to announce that the School Food Trust, in partnership with LACA (Local Authority Caterers' Association) has released provisional findings from the third annual survey of take up of school meals, reporting on the 2007-08 financial year.

In primary schools take up in 2007-08 was 43.6 per cent., an increase of 2.3 percentage points on the value reported for 2006-07 of 41.3 per cent.

In secondary schools, take up in 2007-08 was 37.2 per cent., a decrease of 0.5 percentage points on the value reported for 2006-07 of 37.5 per cent.

The values reported for 2005-06 were 42.3 per cent. in primary schools and 42.7 per cent. in secondary schools.

These figures illustrate that the number of primary school children eating school meals rose by roughly 88,000 from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The number of secondary school pupils eating school meals fell by roughly 38,000 over the same period. This is partly explained by a 2 per cent. drop in numbers of pupils on roll in secondary schools.

Average meal price in primary schools in 2007-08 was £1.66, compared to £1.63 reported for 2006-07, an increase of 1.8 per cent. Average ingredient costs were 61 pence per meal, 7 per cent. higher than in 2006-07 (57 pence). Average labour costs were 1.08 per meal, very similar to the 1.09 reported for 2006-07.

In secondary schools, the average meal price is based on the value of a free school meal, which in 2007-08 was £1.78, compared to £1.72 reported for 2006-07, an increase of 3 per cent. Average ingredient and labour costs as a percentage of total service expenditure were 36.5 per cent. and 48.6 per cent. respectively.

Where take up in schools had increased, local authorities believed the change to be related to (percentage given for primary and secondary services, respectively):

Marketing of school meals to pupils (79%, 70%)

Schools having food policies (74%, 61%)

Marketing of school meals to parents (73%, 48%)

Provision of more healthy options (59%, 34%)

Improvement in dining facilities (57%, 48%)

In addition, in relation to secondary school catering provision, 54 per cent. of LAs said that reorganization of arrangements for meals was important (that is, shorter queues, changes in timetable), as was the introduction of a stay-on-site policy (56%).

Where take up in schools had decreased, local authorities believed the change to be related to (percentage given for primary and secondary services, respectively):

Provision of more healthy options resulting in more children bringing packed lunches (74%, 80%)

Parents providing packed lunches (64%, 24%)

Increases in the price of a school meal due to inflation (56%, 54%)

Increases in the price of a school meal due to use of better quality ingredients (55%, 53%)

Number of pupils buying school meals (47%, 65%)

In addition, in secondary schools, the main reason for a decline in take up was pupils buying meals elsewhere in response to the provision of more healthy options (91%). Shorter lunch hours were also seen as a deterrent (68%), as was organization of meal provision (62%).

Future support for improving take up

As part of our drive to improve school lunch provision, we announced in 2006 a new specific capital fund of £150 million in this spending review for authorities with the greatest need to build new kitchens in schools where currently there are none. Fifteen authorities submitted bids totalling some £46.9 million and I am now pleased to announce that all of those bids have been successful. This means that schools in West Sussex, Swindon, North East Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, North Somerset, Dorset, Wigan, Harrow, Hillingdon, Plymouth, Buckinghamshire, Bournemouth, Northamptonshire, Kingston-upon-Thames, and Worcestershire will have new school kitchens over the next three years.

I am also pleased to announce that the remainder of this £150 million specific fund for school kitchens will be made available to all local authorities who submit plans to increase school lunch take-up by building or improving school kitchens and upgrading dining facilities and systems. This means that all authorities and schools will have the opportunity to improve school lunches and increase take-up through better preparation facilities and more attractive dining areas.

Finally, we have decided to provide the School Food Trust with an extra £6 million over the next three years to promote healthy food to young people and raise take up. This is on top of the £21 million funding settlement the School Food Trust received in March.

School Lunch Take-up Figures

Background

The School Food Trust carries out a survey in April of each year to estimate the take up of school meals nationally. The trust asks the catering officers in 150 local authorities (LAs) to provide information on take-up and highlight the factors that they believe have most influenced the change in take-up in the previous year. This year's survey has been conducted in close collaboration with LACA (the Local Authority Caterers Association) and in consultation with other interested stakeholders.

To date, 105 responses have been received from local authorities. The figures quoted above are provisional, based on responses from 70 LAs covering school meal provision in primary schools and responses from 59 LAs covering school meal provision in secondary schools, as clarification of information is ongoing. A full report of the survey results will be published on the trust website in September 2008.

The final report will include information nationally and by region on:

Take up of school meals.

Changes in take up between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Meal prices.

Ingredient and labour costs.

Factors felt to be responsible for changes in demand.

Kitchen facilities.

An interim report is available on the trust website at: www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk

Notes

Take up has been calculated using the same method as in previous years.

Primary figures include primary schools and special schools.

Data reported here relate to schools with catering provided by the local authority, either through an in-house catering service or using a LA-contracted private contractor.

The Government announced a five-point plan for school food in September 2006, including a new specific capital fund for authorities with the greatest need to build new kitchens in schools where currently there are none.

Capital for Kitchens

Ministers last autumn agreed to provide £150 million of targeted funding in this spending review period, to fund this commitment. The 15 successful local authorities are:

West Sussex: £5.744 million

Swindon: £2 million

North East Lincolnshire: £3.424 million

Lincolnshire: £4.416 million

North Somerset: £2.128 million

Dorset: £3.52 million

Wigan: £2 million

Harrow: £5.888 million

Hillingdon: £1.8 million

Plymouth: £1.456 million

Buckinghamshire: £1.384 million

Bournemouth: £608.000

Northamptonshire: £5.5 million

Kingston-upon-Thames: £752.000

Worcestershire: £6.304 million

The remainder of the £150 million fund will be made available to local authorities who submit plans to increase school lunch take-up by building or improving school kitchens and upgrading dining facilities and systems. Further details will be published in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PPS6 (Revisions)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am today publishing a consultation on proposals to improve planning policy statement 6: "Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6). Copies of the consultation are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Busy town centres with a wide range of shops are vital to communities large and small, rural and urban. For more than a decade, Government planning policy has been designed to ensure that the vitality and viability of town centres is promoted.

Today, there is more retail development in and around our town centres than at any time during the last ten years, but we cannot be complacent particularly in the current economic climate. Evidence shows that there is scope to refine the policy and make it more effective.

In last year's Planning White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future", the Government committed to consulting on changes to PPS6. In this consultation we are setting out our proposals in detail.

The proposals reinforce the town centre-first approach to ensure that development continues to take place in town centres and promotes their vitality, viability and character. We will retain the 'sequential test' which requires developers to justify why they cannot build in the centre before they seek to build out of town.

The proposals remove the 'need test' for proposals outside town centres which has been shown to be a blunt tool and introduce a new and broader 'impact test' to take better account of economic, social and environmental factors.

The proposals also link design quality and climate change considerations to the impact test, ensuring that developments are better designed and greener.

Alongside these changes, the consultation makes clear that policy will continue to reinforce the principle that development should be accessible by a range of transport modes; that it should promote greater consumer choice and retail diversity; and that it should encourage investment and job creation in disadvantaged areas.

Our amendments do not include any specific policy proposals for taking forward the proposed planning 'competition test' for large grocery stores which was recommended by the Competition Commission in its final report on "The Supply of Groceries in the UK market investigation" (April 2008). The Government will be responding separately on this shortly.

The proposed changes I am setting out today will play a part in helping our town centres to thrive for years to come. I welcome comments by 3 October 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Home Energy Conservation Act Data

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): Data reported by energy conservation authorities in England under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 in the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2007 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These data have also been published on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' website. Authorities have reported an overall improvement in domestic energy efficiency of approximately 22 per cent. as measured against a 1996 baseline.

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science will be laid before Parliament today.

Departmental Expenditure Limits (Budget Switches)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am announcing the following DEL budget switches, in accordance with the Treasury's consolidated budgeting guidance. Resource DEL will be decreased by £48,761,000 from £2,928,970,000 to £2,880,209,000 and the capital budget will be increased by £48,761,000 from £888,905,000 to £937,666,000. These non-voted DEL switches and the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-	-48,761	4,309,389	-1,429,180	2,880,209
Of which:					
*Administration budget**	-		393,944	-	393,944
*Near-cash in RDEL**	-	-48,761	4,100,527	-1,564,362	2,536,165
Capital**	-	48,761	661,010	276,656	937,666
Depreciation***	-	-	-63,463	-137,819	-201,282
Total	-	-	4,906,936	-1,290,343	3,616,593

* The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets

*** Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting

HOME DEPARTMENT

Visa Waiver Test

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final stage of the UK's first global review of visa regimes.

Britain thrives as a society and economy which is open for business and tourism to people from around the world, but only on the basis that there are clear and effective ways to distinguish legitimate from illegitimate travellers. This year we will introduce some of the biggest ever changes to strengthen Britain's border security as we complete implementation of a system of triple checks: stronger overseas checks and wider pre-arrival screening; tougher checks at the UK border itself; and strong new measures within the UK—against illegal immigration, organised crime and other threats.

We believe our tough checks abroad, working with foreign Governments, are amongst the most important. Overseas controls start with fingerprint visas, pre-arrival watch list checks and officers stationed overseas at key crossing points. As part of these overseas defences our visa waiver test helps us determine whether our visa regimes are in the right places. The test was announced in March 2007. Travel from every country beyond the European economic area and Switzerland was measured against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns. The test has been taken forward in close collaboration with other Departments across Whitehall. We have now reached the final stage of the test.

Our assessment found that there was a strong case for introducing a visa regime for a number of currently visa-free countries, based on the current level of risk posed to the UK by sufficient numbers of their nationals, or travellers claiming to be such. A visa regime is a simple but very effective immigration, crime and security control measure.

We recognise that we have historic, economic and political ties with the countries being examined; the introduction of a visa regime is a significant step and a decision we do not take lightly. For this reason, we will now enter a period of detailed dialogue with the Governments concerned to examine how risks can be reduced in a way that obviates the need for a visa regime to be introduced. This activity will last for six months. During this period, countries identified will need to demonstrate a genuine commitment to put into effect credible and realistic plans, with clear timetables, to reduce the risks to the UK, and begin real implementation of these plans by the end of the dialogue period.

The countries we are working with through the mitigation process are: Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Promising and constructive dialogue has already begun with a number of countries but more is required.

The test also indicated that a number of changes were possible for countries currently with visa status. Over the next six months, we will study the options further to see how the visa process can be more closely calibrated to the risks nationals from these countries pose, with consequent benefits for legitimate travellers.

We expect the first consequent changes from the test to be introduced in 2009. The British Government are determined to operate a firm but fair immigration policy. It gives a high priority to treating all foreign nationals coming to or present in the UK with dignity and respect, and the highest legal standards. However, it expects all visitors to the UK to play by the rules. The UK will always welcome genuine visitors, whether business, tourist, student or family, but will continue to take all steps necessary to protect the security of the UK.

JUSTICE

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): I am today laying before Parliament, with the Comptroller and Auditor General, the annual report and accounts for 2007-08 for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. It is being laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers simultaneously.

The annual report and accounts describe the activities of the authority in paying financial compensation to victims of violent crime, under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995.

The accounts estimate the final settlement value of cases in progress and the predicted value of applications which have not yet been received in respect of crimes that have already occurred. As a result, the balance sheet at 31 March 2008 shows net liabilities of £1.29 billion.

In 2007-08 the authority received 53,317 applications for compensation and resolved 65,248. The number of cases outstanding at 31 March 2008 was 74,656. The proportion of cases decided within 12 months was 63.97 per cent.

Judicial Appointments Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The "2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts for the Judicial Appointments Commission" will be laid before Parliament today.

I welcome the publication of the second annual report of the Judicial Appointments Commission. The Commission plays a vital role in the selection of judges and in making recommendations about judicial appointments to me as Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor.

I am glad that the report reflects the hard work and dedication of the Commissioners and staff under the leadership of the chairman, Baroness Prashar. In particular, the report details how the Commission have built on the foundations of their first year of operation by reviewing and improving their selection processes as well as striving to encourage a wider pool of applicants.

I look forward to working with the Commission, in the coming year, as they seek to build on these achievements.

Rights and Responsibilities Agenda (Offender Compacts)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I wish to update the House on the compact with offenders announced in the "Prison Policy Update" paper of January 2008 and written ministerial statement of 31 January, *Official Report*, column 37WS. The compacts I propose will emphasise the need for offenders to accept the responsibilities of their sentence, in return for which they may be entitled to some benefits during the sentence when the obligations are met. Today I am announcing the commencement of four pilots, with the aim in due course of implementing such compacts across the prison estate and for offenders on community orders.

In order to ensure appropriate behaviour offenders can earn access to certain privileges, particularly during their time in custody. These advantages must be earned and offenders must take responsibility for their behaviour and take the opportunities for reform offered to them through commitment, hard work, and delivery against the aims of their sentence plans.

The existing Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme in prisons is a fundamental part of achieving this. It categorises offenders according to their behaviour into basic, standard and enhanced level, and these levels directly equate to the earned privileges they then have access to. This has been a valuable policy which has played an important part in securing order and control in prisons. There is now a need to build on this and ensure a consistent, firm approach is developed alongside it which sees offenders being required to commit to their own reform.

Under the new proposals offenders will not only need to demonstrate basic compliance, but must show commitment beyond this in both achieving sentence planning objectives and in making reparation to the community wherever the opportunity arises. It is important that the public understand and have confidence in the basis on which prisoners are granted enhanced privileges in custody. The scheme I am announcing will deliver this objective.

On 21 July 2008, three pilots will commence in prisons and one in the community, all in the West Midlands. The pilots will introduce a standard format for the compacts for evaluation. I also propose an "End of Custody" report for short sentence prisoners which will summarise the offender's time in custody based on effort and achievement and provide those who have shown commitment to their own improvement with evidence to take into the community. The pilots will run for an initial six months with the aim of rolling out across all prisons and probation next year.

In this way, the custody pilots will build on the existing IEP scheme, which currently includes the use of a compact as good practice, in order to:

establish a set of core principles which can be applied in all cases;

explore the potential for a mandatory compact format;

explore the scope for a link between sentence planning and the IEP;

consider what we can offer offenders without a sentence plan, in particular the under-12 months population, and how we link this to the concept of a compact where rights have to be earned;

ensure robust review processes are in place;

test the potential for information from the compact to be transferred from prison to the community on release on licence, in particular for those in custody not subject to offender management; and

test the potential for "end of custody reports", linked to the compact for short sentenced offenders to present to potential employers on release, which recognise positive behaviour and engagement in constructive activity.

consider the resource impact of the pilot findings and assess affordability.

The community pilots will use induction processes and existing examples of induction agreements with offenders in the community to:

establish a set of core principles and good practice for the community induction process for use in agreeing compacts with offenders;

explore the potential incentives that can be feasibly implemented in the community, including increasing supervision for poor compliance and recognising successful completion of licences and orders; and

test what information from custody is of value in the community and how this could best be presented/transferred, in particular for those offenders not currently subject to end to end offender management.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency Annual Reports and Accounts 2007-08

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the "Youth Justice Agency's Annual Report and Accounts" for 2007-08 in the Libraries of both Houses.

This is the Agency's fifth annual report since its inception on 1 April 2003. It achieved 7 of its 9 key performance targets and 15 of its 18 development objectives.

TRANSPORT

New Cars (Emissions Targets)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): The Government are today publishing a consultation document and accompanying impact, assessment on the European Commission proposal for a regulation on the CO_2 emissions of new cars, putting in place a framework to encourage industry to develop greener, more fuel efficient cars.

The UK is urging the Commission to adopt a longer term target of 100 grammes of CO_2 per kilometre, as part of the Government's wider strategy to address the issue of climate change. This proposal has the potential to deliver a cut in CO_2 emissions from new cars of about 40 per cent. over the next 12 years, and by 2020 could reduce the running costs for consumers buying new cars by about £500 a year, a particularly important consideration at a time of rising oil prices.

The European Commission's own proposals for a target of 130 grammes of CO_2 per kilometre by 2012 are expected to deliver annual CO_2 savings of just over 6 million tonnes a year in the UK by 2020. Achieving the UK-proposed target of 100 grammes of CO_2 per kilometre by 2020 would save an additional 5 million tonnes of CO_2 by 2020. In total, this is equivalent to around a third of the total projected CO_2 savings from domestic transport, or around 2 per cent. of the UK's current overall CO_2 emissions.

Where the Government have a view on aspects of the proposed regulation, we set this out in the consultation document. The UK strongly supports a move to mandatory CO_2 targets for new cars: this would be better for the environment and better for consumers. We would like to see a strong environmental outcome and for this reason we have been taking the lead at the European level for a longer term target of 100 grammes of CO_2 per kilometre by 2020 to be added to the regulation.

We also want to avoid unfair competitive distortions between car manufacturers. We support the Commission's approach for setting CO_2 targets for individual car manufacturers, and we also welcome the proposed derogation for manufacturers who only sell cars in small volumes. We believe that it is also important to add a provision to the regulation to ensure that 'niche' manufacturers (those that only make a narrow range of vehicle types) whilst being subject to challenging targets, are not unfairly penalised.

We are seeking views over the coming months on our underlying analysis and negotiating position via a public consultation. This consultation closes on Friday 3 October 2008, but in the interim the Government will continue their discussion and negotiations at the European level, during which we may have to take further decisions on our negotiating position. We therefore encourage early responses from stakeholders.

Copies of the consultation document and accompanying impact assessment are being sent to the House Library.

Petition

Monday 23 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Pensioner Travel (Kent)

The Petition of pensioners and disabled people of Sheppey and others of like disposition,

Declares that the start time of free bus travel for pensioners and disabled persons has been changed from 9.00 am to later, and that this causes serious inconvenience to pensioners and disabled people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to change the start time of free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled back to 9.00 am.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*Official Report*, 3 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 21p .] [P000208]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government is responsible for the statutory national concessionary fares scheme. Since its introduction in 2000 this has provided off-peak travel between 9.30am and 11.00 pm on weekdays (and all times during the weekend) on local bus services.

From April 2008 eligible people have been guaranteed free travel on local bus services throughout England. Previously this was only available for travel in their own area. In offering this improvement, no change was made to the start time for concession.

In addition to the national concession, local authorities are free to offer their residents enhanced concessions—like earlier start times for travel in their area. This option remains available to authorities.

If residents in the Isle of Sheppey were previously able to travel from 9.00 am, this would have been a local enhancement. Swale Borough Council is responsible for concessionary travel in this area, and should be able to explain why they chose to make any change.

Petitions

Tuesday 24 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

WORK AND PENSIONS

Post Office Card Account

The Petition of residents for Castle Point and others

Sheweth,

That the Post Office Card Account is important to community cohesion, that the Post Offices in Castle Point provide a vital service to the local community, but that their future is threatened by uncertainty over the continuation of Her Majesty's Government's support for Post Offices and, in particular, the abolition of the Post Office Card Account in 2010, which would be totally unacceptable to the residents of Castle Point, especially vulnerable groups who rely on Post Offices and the viability of our important high street shopping parades.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House calls upon Her Majesty's Government to review its policy to abolish the Post Office Card Account in 2010.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 16 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 778.]* [P000213]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

The current Post Office card account contract ends in March 2010 as always planned and the Government has decided that there will be a new service after 2010. We received clear legal advice that we were required to tender competitively for this product, in order to ensure that best value for money for the taxpayer is achieved. That process is now well underway and an announcement on the successful bidder will be made in the coming months in accordance with appropriate procurement rules once a decision has been reached.

The successor to the Post Office card account will be accessible at personal teller outlets throughout the UK—Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This means at least 10,000 outlets to ensure that it will be available in rural areas as well as urban and urban deprived communities, although there is nothing to stop the successful bidder offering a larger network if they wish.

We still believe that being paid into a bank or building society account is the best option for the vast majority of our customers, and around three in four of our customers are paid this way. It gives them more choice about where and when they get their money, enables them to make savings on some bills by paying by direct debit and get interest on balances on their accounts. The Government remains committed to allowing people to access their pension and benefit in cash at the post office if they choose to do so, and there are around 25 accounts which make that possible still generating income for Post Office Ltd and sub-postmasters.

Post Offices play an important social and economic role in the communities they serve and the Government is determined to maintain a national Post Office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country. This is why Government invested £2 billion between 1999 and 2006 to support the network and is providing a further £1.7 billion up to 2011 to maintain a national network and put it on a stable footing. Funding includes a continued annual subsidy of up to £150 million until at least 2011 with an expectation of a continued need for subsidy beyond this.

TRANSPORT

Rail Services (Chilam)

The Petition of residents of Chilham Parish Council.

Declares that South Eastern Railways and the Department for Transport plan to reduce train services at Chilham station.

The Petitioners therefore request that request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure that South Eastern Railways agree to continue to provide a minimum of two trains an hour at peak times and an hourly service at off-peak times and weekends at Chilham Station: provision of a full train service will avoid the increasing use of cars on already overcrowded and dangerous local roads, avoid exacerbating traffic management problems, avoid increasing pollution and avoid detracting from the vibrancy of Chilham as a centre for rural tourism, business and living.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Damian Green, Official Report, 9 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 133.]* [P000207]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The proposed changes to rail services from Chilham station from December 2009 are part of a major recasting of the timetable which also sees the introduction of domestic high speed services between London and Kent.

In the original service specification, which was published by the Strategic Rail Authority in a Stakeholder Briefing Document in January 2005, Chilham was to have a total of six trains in each direction in the morning and evening peak periods but no service off-peak or at weekends.

Currently, the service from Chilham is generally hourly in the off-peak and at weekends. During the morning and evening peaks, there are two trains per hour in each direction.

It was recognised that some of the assumptions underlying the original service specification had changed in the time since its publication. Southeastern therefore reviewed demand for rail services in Kent during 2007 to ensure that the December 2009 timetable matched current customer demand.

Southeastern now propose some changes to the service specification for December 2009 to align services more closely with the demand levels identified by their research. Under the terms of their Franchise Agreement, Southeastern must consult stakeholders on these proposed changes and the Secretary of State will take account of the consultation responses when considering whether to allow the changes to be implemented.

Southeastern have advised the department that they propose to provide an hourly service from Chilham during the off-peak and at weekends. This is additional to the original service specification and in line with the aspirations of the petitioners.

Consultation will take place later this summer and once this has been completed decisions will be made on the detail of the December 2009 timetable.

Petitions

Wednesday 25 June 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

HMRC Workforce Change

The Petition of local businesses of Hove & Portslade, the PCS and others,

Declares the Petitioners serious concerns about the HMRC's Workforce Change proposals which will close twenty-five offices, including Hove, and lead to a reduction in staff by 2300 across the South-East. The Petitioners further declare that the proposed changes in the HMRC are aimed at generating financial savings and do not take into account the quality of service delivery and the adverse impact both on staff and on customers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to prevent the planned closure.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow.]* [P000188]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Window Blind Safety

The Petition of readers of the Alloa and Hillfoots Advertiser and others of like disposition,

Declares that looped operating cords on window blinds are dangerous, particularly to young children, as the tragic death of Menstrie toddler Muireann McLaughlin in February 2008 and similar tragic deaths of children in the UK demonstrates. The Government should take all necessary actions to prevent further unnecessary deaths in the future.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward legislation banning looped operating cords on window blinds and curtains.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Gordon Banks, Official Report, 4 June 2008; Vol. 478, c. 890.]* [P000192]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government is aware of the dangers looped cords in blinds and curtain products present for small children. Since 2004, DTI/BERR officials have been working with BSI to bring about important changes to the European standard on internal blinds. These changes, which we expect to see ratified later this year, will see the introduction of stronger warning requirements as well as a requirement for these products to be either supplied with suitable accessories to keep cords out of the reach of children or alternatively to include in the product design a mechanism that will achieve the same effect.

In addition, we are driving forward discussion within the General Product Safety Directive Committee on what more can be done to improve blinds safety in Europe. Banning looped cords as the Petition requests is not practical. There are many different types and design of internal blind (e.g. horizontal blinds, cellular shades, roller shades, Roman shades, vertical blinds etc) and with some the use of internal and/or external looped cords is critical to their functioning (e.g. the external loop on roller blinds). However, with many designs this is not the case and we will continue to encourage the current trend away from use of external looped controls where these are not necessary.

Petitions

Monday 30 June 2008

TRANSPORT

Driving Test Centre (Wellingborough)

The Humble Petition of residents of the Borough of Wellingborough and surrounding areas,

Sheweth

That the Government is forcing the closure of Wellingborough Driving Test Centre which is a loss of another public service to the local area. Wellingborough is part of the South Midlands and Milton Keynes Core Spatial Strategy and is expected to expand by between a third and a half in the next few years. Driving instructors and pupils will have to drive to Kettering Driving Test Centre, nine miles away. This will cause inconvenience, increased CO_2 emissions, additional cost and annoyance to the residents of Kettering.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reconsider her decision to close Wellingborough Driving Test Centre.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report, 11 June 2008; Vol. 477, c. 424.]* [P000210]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has a statutory responsibility for setting standards for theory and practical driving tests and assessing the standard of driving at the practical driving test.

Wellingborough driving test centre is located within multi-occupied leasehold premises. The Agency is currently holding over on the lease which expired in January 2007. This is a 1970s building that does not offer the modern facilities that the DSA tries to provide for customers and staff wherever possible.

A new national network of driving test centres—Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs)—is being developed to facilitate European Commission Directive 2000/56/EC which introduced more demanding manoeuvres for practical driving and riding tests and meets our needs for safer driving.

DSA has considered how best to meet the needs of driving test candidates in the Wellingborough area and comply with the new European test requirements. The Agency is proposing to relocate driver and rider testing in the area to a new MPTC facility at Kettering some eight miles away. The relocation of the Wellingborough facility to the Kettering MPTC would maximise the utilisation of the facility and ensure there is no wasteful over-provision of facilities without compromising waiting service targets.

DSA service standards set for areas with a population density of between 100 and 1,250 persons per square kilometre state that most candidates should not have to travel more than twenty miles to a driving test centre. The proposed co-location of Wellingborough driving test centre at Kettering is consistent with this criterion.

The Agency's Code of Practice provides for relocation or closure to proceed without formal consultation where there is an alternative facility within the Agency's travelling distance criterion. Once the operational date of the Kettering MPTC has been established and the last date of testing of Wellingborough determined, the Agency will advise all interested parties accordingly in keeping with its Code of Practice.

Petitions

Thursday 3 July 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Shropshire)

The Petition of users of Greenfields Post Office,

Declares that the plan to close five Post Offices in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency will have a detrimental effect on the lives of local residents. The local Post Office is a vital and integral element of the local community, supporting social interaction between residents. They should not simply be assessed on an economic basis without taking into consideration the social economic value they offer to the local community. The proposed partial replacement of three of the Post Offices earmarked for closure by a mobile vehicle with restricted hours, and in some cases parked on the side of roads or in lay-bys, is a substandard solution not benefiting the world we live in today.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to instruct Post Office Ltd. to ensure that Greenfields Post Office is kept open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report*, 18 June 2008; Vol. 477; c. 1050.] [P000217]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire ended on 9 June and POL is expected to announce final decisions on 1 July. Details will be made available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government. It also takes into account local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this further stage, the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Staffordshire)

The Petition of supporters of the 'Keep Stapenhill Post Office Open' campaign

Declares that the supporters recognise the importance of the Post Office to their community and oppose the current closure plan

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd to keep Stapenhill Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Janet Dean, Official Report*, 4 June 2008; Vol. 891, c. 476.] [P000203]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling based programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire, including the Burton constituency, finished on 9 June and POL is expected to announce its final decisions on 1 July. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access (such as rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

- POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
- evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this further stage the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Monday 7 July 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Ceredigion)

The Humble Petition of the people of Ceredigion

Sheweth,

That the closure of Post Offices in Ceredigion would cause considerable hardship for many people living in scattered rural communities, deprive residents of invaluable services, both material and social, would force those people to travel to alternative Post Offices, often several miles or more away, and would leave those without access to a car without an easily accessible Post Office.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to cancel plans to close Post Offices across Ceredigion

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mark Williams, Official Report, 3 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 739 .]* [P000202]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced, in May 2007, confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Central Wales has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website, confirming the closure of 11 branches and 16 replacement Outreach Services. Details of the closures are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange .

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. There was an addition to the review process last November. For very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Shropshire)

The Petition of users of Ditherington Post Office,

Declares that the plan to close five Post Offices in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency will have a detrimental effect on the lives of local residents. The local Post Office is a vital and integral element of the local community, supporting social interaction between residents. They should not simply be assessed on an economic basis without taking into consideration the social economic value they offer to the local community. The proposed partial replacement of three of the Post Offices earmarked for closure by a mobile vehicle with restricted hours, and in some cases parked on the side of roads or in lay-bys, is a substandard solution not benefiting the world we live in today.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to instruct Post Office Ltd. to ensure that Ditherington Post Office is kept open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report,* 2 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 613 .] [P000199]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, in May 2007 the Government announced confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire ended on 9 June and POL is expected to announce final decisions 1 July. Details will be made available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this further stage the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Staffordshire)

The Petition of supporters of the 'Keep Marchington Post Office Open' campaign,

Declares that the supporters recognise the importance of the Post Office and shop to their community and oppose the current closure plan.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd to keep Marchington Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Janet Dean, Official Report,* 4 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 892 .] [P000204]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, in May 2007 the Government announced confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire ended on 9 June and POL is expected to announce final decisions on 1 July. Details will be available on the POL website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision; or
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. There was an addition to the review process last November. For very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of supporters of the 'Keep Mayfield Post Office Open' campaign

Declares that the supporters recognise the importance of the Post Office and shop to their community and oppose the current closure plan

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd to keep Mayfield Post Office open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Janet Dean, Official Report*, 4 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 892 .] [P000205]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches or mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire ended on 9 June and POL is expected to announce final decisions on 1 July. Details will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange .

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. It takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as geography (rivers, mountains etc), when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. There was an addition to the review process last November. For very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petition

Tuesday 8 July 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Ghurkhas (Citizenship and Pensions)

The Petition of the Havant Ex-Servicemen's Club, the Havant Royal British Legion and others of like disposition.

Declares that the treatment of Ghurkhas is an ongoing disgrace: Ghurkhas who retired from the British Army after 1997 can automatically stay in the UK, but those who retired earlier must apply for citizenship, and many have been refused and face deportation. Pension rights for years served by Ghurkhas before 1997 count at only around a quarter of the level of years served after that time.

Further declares their support for the fifty Nepalese soldiers who handed back their Long Service and Good Conduct medals in March 2008, in protest at the difference in treatment of Ghurkhas with other British soldiers, such as those from the Commonwealth.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Defence to ensure that all ex-Ghurkha soldiers and their families British citizenship on leaving the service.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

—*[Presented by Mr. David Willetts .]* [P000228]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 June 2008

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, on Royal and Ministerial air travel, what the cost will be of the small aircraft for official travel within the UK. [211872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the Department's approval for the acquisition of a small fixed wing aircraft, the royal household are currently conducting an evaluation exercise (including costings) in preparation for the issue of tender documentation for issue later this year.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212048]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure by the Department for Transport and Executive agencies was as follows:

	£
DFT Central	26,700,000
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	10,400,000
Highways Agency	1,600,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,075,000
Driving Standards Agency	299,700
Government Car and Despatch Agency	171,800
Vehicle Certification Agency	80,500
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	30,000

Major areas of spend were on campaigns such as THINK! road safety; ACT ON CO_2; concessionary bus fares; aviation security and vehicle taxation.

Electrification

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in meeting the Government's targets to increase the electrification of railways. [212330]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government have not set any targets to increase rail electrification. However, the Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to re-examine the business case for electrification, explore how costs can be reduced and to agree priority schemes. The aim is to produce an indicative implementation plan by the end of 2008.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the Public Performance Measure Moving Annual Average statistics for *(a)* First Great Western services for each year since 2006 and *(b)* the train operating companies which ran those services now operated by First Great Western during 2002 to 2006. [212754]

Mr. Tom Harris: The figures are as follows (period 1 starts 1 April each year. No figures are available for early 2002 for Wessex Trains, as it had been created by splitting up another franchise the previous year. First Great Western Link took over from Thames Trains on 1 April 2004):

Percentage

Rail 4-weekly period	*Old First Great Western*	*Thames Trains/ First Great Western Link*	*Wessex Trains*
2002-03			
1	72.1	80.4	n/a
2	72.7	80.5	n/a
3	73.5	80.6	n/a
4	74.9	81.0	n/a
5	75.1	81.0	n/a
6	74.8	81.1	n/a
7	75.1	81.5	81.9
8	74.0	81.0	81.4
9	73.2	80.7	81.4
10	72.1	80.4	80.9
11	71.1	79.8	80.7
12	71.3	79.6	81.0
13	71.9	79.2	81.1
2003-04			
1	72.0	78.8	81.0
2	72.2	78.7	81.4
3	71.5	78.1	81.5
4	71.0	77.8	81.6
5	70.3	77.3	81.6
6	70.0	77.0	81.9
7	69.9	76.3	82.0
8	70.0	76.7	82.6
9	71.4	77.4	82.7
10	72.2	77.6	83.1
11	73.4	78.2	83.3
12	73.7	78.6	83.5
13	73.9	79.1	83.7
2004-05			
1	74.3	79.5	84.1
2	74.6	79.7	84.1
3	75.5	80.3	84.2
4	76.5	81.1	84.3
5	77.9	81.6	84.7
6	78.8	82.0	84.8
7	80.1	82.8	84.8
8	79.6	82.8	84.8
9	80.1	82.9	85.3
10	80.4	83.1	85.5

Percentage

Rail 4-weekly period	*Old First Great Western*	*Thames Trains/ First Great Western Link*	*Wessex Trains*
11	80.1	83.1	85.6
12	79.8	83.0	85.6
13	79.6	82.9	85.4
2005-06			
1	79.4	83.0	85.3
2	79.1	82.9	85.3
3	78.1	82.6	85.0
4	77.0	82.3	84.7
5	77.0	82.6	84.8
6	76.9	82.8	85.1
7	76.6	83.1	85.2
8	76.2	83.2	85.2
9	74.9	82.9	84.7
10	74.8	83.0	84.6
11	75.1	83.1	84.8
12	75.0	83.3	85.0
13	74.5	83.5	85.2

New First Great Western

	Percentage
2006-07	
1	82.9
2	83.1
3	83.6
4	83.8
5	83.7
6	83.5
7	83.5
8	84.1
9	84.2
10	84.0
11	83.4
12	83.3
13	83.2
2007-08	
1	83.0
2	82.8
3	82.7
4	82.5
5	82.4
6	82.7
7	82.6
8	82.3
9	82.5
10	82.4
11	82.8
12	83.0
13	83.1
2008-09	
1	83.6
2	83.9

Railways: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains stop daily at *(a)* Preston, *(b)* Chorley, *(c)* Adlington, *(d)* Blackrod and *(e)* Horwich Parkway stations. [212674]

Mr. Tom Harris: This public timetable information is available in various hardcopy versions (such as the "UK Rail Timetable" published by The Stationery Office), or can be electronically downloaded from the Network Rail website (http://www.networkrail.co.uk/) as "Electronic National Rail Timetable" (eNRT). Current train service information is also available through the National Rail website

(http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/).

Railways: Voluntary Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will visit the North York Moors Railway to meet the volunteers who man the operation to discuss the running of the railway. [212663]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport has no immediate plans to visit the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the effect on volunteers in community and other railways of recent rising fuel costs in enabling them to travel to railway stations; and if she will make a statement. [212664]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has not received any direct representations on this issue. Community Rail volunteers are typically members of the communities those railways serve. They therefore tend to live close to those railways, and often have low transport costs in getting to the relevant local rail stations.

Travel: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to make the monetary value of a concessionary bus pass available to elderly people with mobility difficulties for use on other forms of transport; and if she will make a statement. [210032]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no proposals to give residents eligible for concessionary travel the monetary value of a concessionary bus pass as an alternative to taking it up. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 preserves the flexibility of Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) to enhance their schemes locally at their own expense. At its discretion a TCA can choose to offer its residents travel vouchers or tokens for local use in taxis. The offer of any such enhancement and the monetary value of it is entirely a matter for the TCA as vouchers or tokens are not part of the statutory entitlement to concessionary travel.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Bolton

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when a Minister in his Department last visited the Child Support Agency offices in Bolton. [212024]

Mr. Plaskitt: There have been no visits by Ministers within the Department to Child Support Agency offices in Bolton. However, both I and my noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton made several visits to Child Support Agency offices in the last year.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered the merits of replacing the 0845 telephone number for the Child Support Agency with a local-rate telephone number. [212073]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has considered the merits of replacing the 0845 telephone number for the Child Support Agency with a local rate telephone number. [212073]

The Child Support Agency's 0845 telephone numbers are charged at the rate of a local call from a landline telephone. Calls from mobile phones are charged at a rate determined by the service provider.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of income is protected with regard to the recovery of Child Support Agency arrears via a deduction from earnings order; and what other limits restrict the extent to which such arrears may be recovered. [210923]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what level of income is protected with regard to the recovery of Child Support Agency arrears via a deduction from earnings order; and what other limits restrict the extent to which such arrears may be recovered. [210923]

In new scheme cases the non-resident parent should be left with a minimum of 60% of net earnings after making child maintenance payments. This is set out in the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992, Regulation 11(2).

The protected earnings rate on the old scheme may also enable deductions up to 40% of net earnings, though this may vary from case to case as the figure takes personal circumstances into account.

The Agency has set a ceiling for each deduction from earnings order which ensures that the maximum deduction does not exceed 40% of net earnings, leaving 60% of earnings protected.

The Agency will consider imposing the maximum deduction through a deduction from earnings order where child maintenance arrears are outstanding and the non-resident parent does not agree an acceptable repayment schedule. The Agency is committed to collect more money for more children and get tougher on non-resident parents who avoid their financial responsibilities.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors are taken into account by the Child Support Agency when calculating the repayment of arrears.[1] [212802]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what factors are taken into account by the Child Support Agency when calculating the repayment of arrears. [212802]

There are a number of factors to consider where child maintenance debt is outstanding and the non-resident parent is not able to offer full repayment immediately. Before deciding whether it is appropriate to collect arrears of child maintenance the Agency will consider the welfare of any child likely to be affected by an agreement. There is also a requirement for each parent to make adequate financial provision for their children which is a basic principle of the Child Support Act 1991. The actual negotiation process will establish the relevant facts, request further details where necessary and review representations made by the non-resident parent. The aim is to achieve the best possible agreement on behalf of all parties.

If the Agency cannot secure immediate repayment in full from the non-resident parent, it aims to reach agreements that will see arrears paid back within two years wherever possible. Before forming an opinion about accepting a repayment offer, the Agency will take into account the circumstances of the case and all other relevant considerations.

In some cases where an agreement cannot be reached which takes appropriate account of the welfare of the children affected, the non-resident parent's obligations and other relevant circumstances, it may be necessary to pursue recovery through legal enforcement methods. This is a key feature of the Operational Improvement Plan, launched in April 2006.

The Agency collected or arranged more than £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This is almost twice the £68 million of arrears collected in the year to March 2006 before the full introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Housing Benefit: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of expenditure on *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit for non-UK nationals in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available; [208649]

---

[1] *[Official Report, 30 June 2008, Vol. 478, c. 6MC.]*

(2) how many non-UK citizens received *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) EU nationals and (ii) non-EU nationals receiving such benefits; and what the 10 nationalities with the greatest number of claims were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [208655]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's forecasts are for *(a)* on-flow, *(b)* off-flow and *(c)* stock estimates for (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) income support, broken down by statistical group, and (iii) employment and support allowance for each of the next five years. [209940]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The available information is in the following tables. The information is provided for the period up to the end of the Government's spending plans, 2010-11, and does not take account of any future policy announcements.

Incapacity benefits and employment support allowance: estimated number of claimants, flows onto and off benefit

				Thousand (estimated outturn)
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Stock				
Incapacity Benefit	2,400	2,220	1,930	1,670
Severe Disablement Allowance	220	200	190	180
Employment and Support Allowance	n/a	100	280	480
On-flows				
Incapacity Benefit	600	320	40	20
Severe Disablement Allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Employment and Support Allowance	n/a	280	580	600
Off-flows				
Incapacity Benefit	640	460	260	250
Severe Disablement Allowance	20	20	10	10
Employment and Support Allowance	n/a	60	350	420

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 thousand. Components may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures relate to adults of working-age.
3. Severe disablement allowance closed to new claimants in April 2001.
4. Employment and support allowance (ESA) is introduced in October 2008 and replaces incapacity benefit for new claimants. Figures for 2008-09 for ESA therefore relate to six months only.
5. Figures for on-flows to incapacity benefit from 2008-09 onwards include estimates of claimants who are likely to have a break in their claim and will be allowed to receive incapacity benefit again under linking rules.
6. Figures are consistent with benefit expenditure tables available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Income support: Estimated number of claimants, flows onto and off benefit

				Thousand (estimated outturn)
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Income Support stock	2,120	2,050	1,730	1,510
of which:				
Sick or disabled	1,250	1,200	990	860
Lone Parent	760	730	610	520
Others	120	120	130	130
Income Support on-flow	720	530	270	240
of which:				
Sick or disabled	440	260	10	0
Lone Parent	220	210	190	180
Others	60	60	70	70
Income Support off-flow	740	680	580	440
of which:				
Sick or disabled	450	390	200	110
Lone Parent	240	240	320	270
Others	60	60	60	60

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 thousand. Components may not sum due to rounding.
2. Income support on the grounds of incapacity will no longer be payable to new claimants after the introduction of employment and support allowance in October 2008.
3. Figures for 'Others' include income support for carers, pregnant women and ex-minimum income guarantee claimants.
4. Figures are consistent with benefit expenditure tables available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Vertex Data Science

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what representations he has received on the performance of Vertex Data Science Ltd in providing services at the Child Support Agency centre in Bolton; [212020]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Vertex Data Science Ltd in delivering the objectives of the Child Support Agency; [212022]

(3) what representations he has received on the retention of staff by Vertex Data Science Ltd at the Child Support Agency's offices in Bolton. [212025]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what representations he has received on the performance of Vertex Data Science Ltd in providing services at the Child Support Agency centre in Bolton. [212020];

What assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Vertex Data Science Ltd in delivering the objectives of the Child Support Agency. [212022]; and

What representations he has received on the retention of staff by Vertex Data Science Ltd at the Child Support Agency's offices in Bolton. [212025]

Vertex Data Science Ltd. manages the CSA Bolton site, a unit the Agency established to deal with cases which for technical reasons can not be processed on the new computer system (CS2) and therefore need to be administered clerically. By moving all the clerical work undertaken by the Agency to this one site from September 2006, the Agency was able to release people to focus on other improvement work outlined in the Operational Improvement Plan, including reducing the number of uncleared applications and strengthening enforcement. This has contributed to the Agency meeting or exceeding all of its 2007/08 Secretary of State targets and collecting over £1 billion in child maintenance for over 750,000 children.

Since September 2006, Vertex has arranged and collected more than £40 million of maintenance payments. While the arrangement has contributed to the Agency's improvement, there have also been some operational issues which have impacted on client service. The Agency took steps to ensure that our service to clients improved by renegotiating the contract with Vertex to allow them to focus on keeping maintenance flowing to children. The Agency also increased its resource dedicated to progressing clerical cases by retaining responsibility for new clerical cases until first payment stage.

In addition, all complaints with MP or Independent Case Examiner involvement, as well as those cases that require a review are now being dealt with by specialist caseworkers within the Agency. Clerical cases represent less than three per cent of all assessed cases. While the administration of these cases will continue to present a challenge, the Agency is continually working with its contractors to improve the service to these clients.

The Agency is committed to implementing an IT upgrade which will introduce a series of system checkpoints, reducing the number of stuck cases which currently need to be administered clerically.

The retention of employees at CSA Bolton is a matter for Vertex Data Science Ltd as they are responsible for employing the people required to deliver the service, under the contract which currently runs to September 2008.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

SCOTLAND

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the siting of nuclear waste disposal facilities in Scotland. [212948]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions on the siting of nuclear waste disposal facilities in Scotland, which is a devolved matter there.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland. [212919]

David Cairns: None. HMRC is conducting an estates review as the organisation has identified that it can operate more efficiently, estimating that it has around 30 to 40 per cent. excess office space overall. This review follows the creation of the department from the former Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise and aims to make savings totalling £100 million by 2011. In doing so, HMRC is committed to matching its future business strategy with the correct provision of accommodation and people by consulting with staff, trade unions, MPs, local authorities and other stakeholders. The consultation regarding Scottish proposals ends on 30 July and I urge all stakeholders to participate in the process.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House what estimate she has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in her Office in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212503]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office for these purposes. The pay scales for Cabinet Office staff by pay band will be given in the answer by that Department.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House which trades unions represent members of staff in her Office. [212477]

Helen Goodman: The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect and the First Division Association (FDA) have a partnership agreement with the Cabinet Office and represent different sections of Cabinet Office staff.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what allowance is payable to hon. Members successful in the ballot for private Members' Bills to assist with drafting costs; when the allowance was last increased; what the value of the allowance is expressed in prices at the date it was last increased; whether she plans to increase it; and if she will make a statement. [212423]

Helen Goodman: Provision was made by resolution of the House of 29 November 1971 for a payment of not more than £200 towards drafting assistance for those Members coming in the first ten places in the ballot for private Members' Bills. The provision has not been increased since that date and would now be worth a little over £2,000 expressed in current prices.

There have been very few claims against the allowance for many years. Alternative sources of assistance to Members have increased greatly since 1971 and, as the Government's response to the Procedure Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2002-03 (HC 333) made clear, the Government have undertaken that the resources of Parliamentary Counsel will be applied to Bills which are likely to pass "for the purpose of ensuring that its terms give effect to its supporters' intentions" (Second Special Report from the Procedure Committee of Session 2003-04 HC 610, para. 20). The Government accordingly have no plans to propose an increase in the sum.

Members: Pay

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House how much the most recent review of hon. Members' pay and allowances cost. [213340]

Ms Harman: The cost of the review of parliamentary pay and pensions conducted by Sir John Baker was £11,696.40. This figure cost covers Sir John Baker's 15 days spent on the review since the end of January, reimbursement of his PA's cost and the publication of the report (Cm 7416) on Tuesday 17 June.

OLYMPICS

Contractors: Transport

3. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will have discussions with Transport for London on the use of London Underground by contractors working on the Olympic site. [212560]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Park will have an estimated 9,000 workers on-site at peak construction time in 2010. In addition, an estimated 12,000 workers will be operational on the Olympic Village and Stratford City Development sites.

Workers will use a range of public transport including LU to travel to and from the Olympic Park site. In liaison with TfL, the ODA has studied the potential impact of this demand on the London Underground network and concluded that the impact is manageable.

Both the ODA and the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) are working with London Underground (LU) and Transport for London (TfL) to ensure that the plans to transport workers to and from the Olympic Park site are efficient and cause minimum disruption.

Labour Statistics

4. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many local residents are employed on the construction of facilities for the London Olympics; and how many of those were unemployed prior to taking up such employment. [212561]

Tessa Jowell: The ODA and partners are working hard to ensure that we take advantage of the tremendous opportunity that the Games provide us to improve employment and skills levels of East Londoners. Currently, 451 local residents from the five Olympic host boroughs are employed on the Olympic site. 21 per cent. of these were previously unemployed.

Costs

6. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the likely cost of the 2012 London Olympics. [212563]

Tessa Jowell: In March 2007 I announced that the overall public sector Olympics funding package was £9.325 billion and that budget is unchanged. The costs of delivering the venues and infrastructure in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games will not exceed that budget.

LOCOG are responsible for staging the Games, which is being funded by the private sector.

Budget Forecast

7. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make a statement on the most recent budget forecast for the 2012 London Olympics. [212564]

Tessa Jowell: In March 2007, I announced a funding package of £9.325 billion for the Games. This funding package has not changed.

London Aquatic Centre

8. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the London aquatic centre will cost. [212565]

Tessa Jowell: The Aquatics Centre and its integrated bridge will be delivered within the agreed budget of £303 million which was announced in April 2008.

Paralympics

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the International Paralympics Committee on provision of facilities for athletes with learning disabilities to train for the 2012 London Paralympics. [212562]

Tessa Jowell: I have had no discussions specifically about the training and participation of athletes with an intellectual disability.

As the hon. Member will know, people with intellectual disabilities are currently precluded from competing in the Paralympic games. Although ultimately a matter for the International Paralympic Committee, I know this matter is subject to review.

I am aware of the great enthusiasm of athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the importance they place on having the opportunity to compete in 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what criteria she plans to use to assess whether the 2012 London Olympic Games provide value for money. [212619]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic programme is subject to regular National Audit Office Value for Money Audits. The latest NAO Report—"Preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Progress Report"—was published on 20 June 2008. Previous reports have covered risk assessment and management (February 2007) and the budget for the 2012 Games (July 2007).

The success of the 2012 games will also be assessed against other published indicators, in particular those identified in "Public Service Agreement 22 (PSA 22)—Deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport". The PSA 22 delivery agreement was published by HM Treasury in October 2007.

WALES

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211759]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last five years, my Department has made the following purchases in respect of departmental furnishing.

(a) Eight chairs at a cost of £1,028.07;

(b) Seven desks at a cost of £771.50;

(c) Other office furnishings totalling £439.70.

This brings the total spend to £2,239.27. These purchases were all made in the financial year 2006-07.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212513]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Eight members of Wales Office staff have laptops and related equipment which enables them to work from home. Some use this on an ad hoc basis, while others have a more regular working from home arrangement.

A further 11 members of staff have Blackberries, which enable them to keep in touch by email while they are out of the office or travelling.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212314]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212046]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213139]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office only recruits existing civil servants and does not conduct criminal records checks itself.

All staff are required to have counter terrorism clearance (and in some cases developed vetting). This includes disclosure and checking of all criminal convictions (spent and unspent).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 386-87W, on carbon emissions: finance (1) what the main manmade contributing sources of output are of the six gases which are required to be reduced according to Kyoto targets; [212846]

(2) what volume of carbon dioxide emissions was produced in the UK in the latest year for which figures are available; and what target in tonnes has been set for such emissions under the Kyoto protocol. [212847]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: The main sources of carbon dioxide emissions (CO_2) in the UK in 2006 were energy supply (40 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions in 2006), transport (24 per cent.), business (17 per cent.) and residential (15 per cent.). The main sources of methane emissions (CH_4) in the UK in 2006 were waste management (41 per cent. of total UK CH_4 emissions in 2006) and agriculture (38 per cent.). The main sources of nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions in the UK in 2006 were agriculture (68 per cent. of total UK N_2O emissions in 2006) and transport (15 per cent.). The primary source of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the UK is release of refrigerants. The primary sources of Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) are from aluminium smelting and electronics manufacture. The primary sources of Sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) in the UK are from magnesium smelting and from the release of SF6 used in electrical insulation.

In 2006, emissions of UK carbon dioxide were 554.4 million tonnes. This figure includes emissions from the Crown Dependencies and those Overseas Territories that have joined the UK's ratification of the Kyoto protocol. This figure includes emissions and removals from land-use, land-use change and forestry, as accounted for under the Kyoto protocol. Our Kyoto target is to ensure emissions of the six greenhouse gases controlled under the protocol throughout the period 2008-12 are no higher than 3.412 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This equates to average emissions of no higher than 682.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. UK emissions in 2006 were 652.34 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. This figure does not take into account additional emissions savings delivered through UK participation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) which was estimated to be 34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2006.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the research project designed to help developing countries adapt to and plan for the consequences of climate change, announced at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change summit in December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [210348]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK and the Netherlands are funding research into the economics of adaptation, to build our understanding of the benefits and costs of adapting to climate change in developing countries. The research team has made good progress since December 2007. Six countries have been identified as possible case studies, and detailed discussions have so far taken place in Vietnam, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Bangladesh and Bolivia, with a visit to Ghana from the research team due shortly. All of these countries have welcomed the initiative and expressed their demand for such analysis.

We expect the first report from the research team next month. This will consist of a methodological and literature review. This report will be made publicly available. This will be the case for all interim reports produced in advance of the final study, which will be published towards the end of next year.

Dredging: River Thames

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what navigation safeguards will be applied to protect shipping and marine craft during dredging of the Thames in connection with the London Gateway Port; [212087]

(2) when dredging of the Thames will commence for the channel to accommodate the London Gateway Port. [212088]

Jonathan Shaw: Consents to undertake dredging to develop and subsequently maintain navigational areas within the London Gateway Port are given by the London Gateway Port Harbour Empowerment Order 2008, issued by Department for Transport that came into force on 16 May 2008.

The timing of the proposed dredging is a commercial decision for the new Harbour Authority, London Gateway Port Ltd.

Responsibility for maintaining navigational safety within the tidal Thames is the responsibility of the Port of London Authority.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that additional fishing quota allocated to the UK is used in a sustainable way. [213258]

Jonathan Shaw: I am not aware of any additional fishing quota being allocated to the UK.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of plaice were caught in area 7E in each of the last three years; and what percentage of the UK's quota for plaice this represented in each year. [213259]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on catches of plaice by the UK fishing fleet in the Western English Channel (Area 7E) is shown in the following table.

Plaice quota and landings for UK vessels

	Total UK end-year quota for plaice (Tonnes)	*Plaice caught in Area 7E (Tonnes)*	*Percentage*
2005	16,722	882	5
2006	15,648	962	6
2007	14,317	677	5

Flood Control: EU Grants and Loans

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a flood defence scheme in Powick, Worcestershire, would be eligible for European funding made available from bodies other than the Environment Agency. [212815]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* Yes, other funding sources can be utilised for Flood Defence Schemes such as Powick in Worcestershire.

European funding has been used to deliver Flood Defence Schemes around the country. These funds supported partnership approaches including between local authorities, regional development agencies, developers and the Environment Agency.

Flood Control: Grants

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants are available to enable people to finance flood defences for domestic properties; and if he will make a statement. [212967]

Mr. Woolas: Currently there is no Government grant scheme offering assistance to those wishing to install property-level resistance and resilience measures.

However, we have undertaken a £500,000 pilot scheme looking at the best way of providing financial assistance to people to install flood proofing measures on a mix of individual properties including both dwellings and small businesses. Through the local authorities and Environment Agency teams working on these pilot projects, we will monitor the effectiveness of the chosen solutions as and when they are tested through flooding.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 [1] local authorities have some flexibility in providing discretionary assistance for repairs and adaptations. It is for local authorities to decide the circumstances in which to give discretionary assistance and what form that assistance may take (e.g. grants, loans, equity release schemes etc.).

Genetically Modified Organisms: Seeds

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy on the use of terminator seeds is. [212632]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* In 2000 a decision was reached under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that 'terminator'-type seeds should not be approved for field trials or commercial release without an appropriate assessment of their possible impact. As a party to the CBD we support that decision. There are no terminator seeds in commercial use anywhere in the world at present, and as far as we are aware there are no plans for any to be introduced in the foreseeable future.

Marine Fisheries Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had on the career development of staff of the coastal offices of the Marine and Fisheries Agency following the entry into force of the proposed Marine Bill. [212013]

Jonathan Shaw: Responsibility for career development in the Marine and Fisheries Agency rests with the chief executive, his management team and individual staff members. They will be considering issues relating to career development and training as part of the continued development of the agency, mindful of the Marine Bill and the agency's probable transition to a Marine Management Organisation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he made of the cost of reforming the Marine and Fisheries Agency to meet the policy objectives set out in the draft Marine Bill; [212008]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing the Marine Management Organisation as a non-departmental public body. [212011]

Jonathan Shaw: The proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will be an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) charged with making the sustainable development of the marine area a reality.

The MMO will be built on the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) and where practicable we are transferring functions to the MFA in advance of the establishment of the MMO. I am keen to achieve a smooth transition from the Marine and Fisheries Agency to the Marine Management Organisation, and to start work towards the new organisation in good time. A budget of £1 million has been allocated to support the continued development of the Marine and Fisheries Agency in 2008-09, mindful of its probable transition to the MMO. This work is not dependent on the parliamentary process.

Indicative one-off set-up costs for establishing the MMO as an NDPB have been included in the Draft Marine Bill Impact Assessment which was published on 3 April 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on *(a)* the ruling of the European Court of Justice in relation to the use of on-site power generation through energy service companies and *(b)* the implications of the ruling for the Government's strategy on zero-carbon buildings. [212736]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are currently considering the implications of the judgement including the impact on its strategy on zero carbon buildings.

Citizenship: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 115W, on citizenship: education, what further progress her Department has made in *(a)* disseminating guidance for teaching materials for use in citizenship courses in madrassahs and *(b)* increasing the take-up of such materials; [212961]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 405W, on community relations: religion, what progress her Department has made in establishing an advisory group on citizenship education classes run by mosque schools. [212966]

Mr. Dhanda: In conjunction with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, a contract has been awarded to the Schools Development Support Agency (SDSA) to work with Muslim communities to review existing work and develop citizenship classes for use in mosque schools. SDSA are currently developing good practice materials to trial in a range of madrassahs across six local areas.

An advisory group for this work has been established and has met. Membership of this group includes individuals from across Muslim communities and educational professionals.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to pilot the specialist cohesion teams to support local authorities facing cohesion challenges referred to on page 25 of the report, Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring, published in May 2008. [212931]

Mr. Dhanda: The first pilot of Specialist Cohesion Teams will be in the Norfolk district of Breckland. We are in the process of choosing a second pilot. We aim to start both pilots late July 2008.

Community Relations: Housing

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1989W, on community relations: housing, when her Department plans to publish revised guidance to local authorities on the importance of the strategic housing role and the preparation of housing strategies. [212959]

Mr. Iain Wright: We aim to publish advice to local authorities about housing strategies as part of guidance on 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities' shortly. Guidance about the importance of the strategic housing role will be published later in the year.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report produced for her Department by Four X Ninety Ltd. on understanding Muslim ethnic communities. [212627]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has commissioned the Change Institute to conduct research on Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities. This work has not yet been completed.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has developed the framework of minimum standards for all imams and Muslim chaplains engaged by the state referred to in the Preventing Violent Extremism report published in April 2007. [212930]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government commissioned The Experience Corps (TEC) to develop a framework of standards and a recruitment process for institutions engaging Muslim chaplains in public service. This was developed in consultation with a range of Government Departments, relevant sectors and institutions, faith organisations and chaplaincy groups. The draft framework and recruitment process, which we plan to pilot during 2008-09, will shortly be published on the Department's website.

Community Relations: Migration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to help local communities manage the effects of migration. [212276]

Mr. Dhanda: On 11 June 2008, we published a cross-government plan on 'Managing the Impacts of Migration: A Cross-Government Approach'. This sets out a range of current and future government actions which support local areas in maximising the benefits of migration while minimising any negative impacts at local level. The document can be viewed on the website of Communities and Local Government at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/migrationimpact

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plans to publish its interfaith strategy. [212936]

Mr. Dhanda: We plan to publish the inter faith strategy this summer.

Corporate Hospitality: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many receptions the Thames Gateway project has held in each of the last five years. [212192]

Caroline Flint: Our records show that the Thames Gateway Executive has held the following receptions:

FY2003 and FY2004

No receptions held

FY2005

Reception at the Thames Gateway Forum, the UK's foremost exhibition focusing on the Thames Gateway

FY2006

Reception at the Thames Gateway Forum, the UK's foremost exhibition focussing on the Thames Gateway

Reception at MIPIM, an international exhibition for real estate professionals and investors

FY2007

Reception at the Thames Gateway Forum, the UK's foremost exhibition focusing on the Thames Gateway

Christmas Stakeholder Reception

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [210947]

Mr. Dhanda: Figures supplied by the Department's travel booking service show representatives from the Department undertook 605 individual domestic air flights in 2007-08 financial year, at a cost of £66,813. This total includes figures for officials within Government offices.

The Department's agencies report domestic flight details as follows for the last financial year;

Agency	*Number of flights*	*Cost (£)*
Planning Inspectorate	101	66,813
Queen Elizabeth 2nd Conference Centre	0	0
Fire Service College	22	1,020.68
Ordnance Survey	1,004	115,426

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Expert Panels

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of each of her Department's expert panels. [212746]

Mr. Dhanda: In response to the Department's capability review, the Department set up three expert panels to provide analytical advice in the following policy areas: (i) housing markets and planning; (ii) neighbourhoods cities and regions; and (iii) housing and communities (social and affordable housing). Membership of the respective panels is shown in annex tables A1, A2 and A3 respectively.

Annex A1: Membership of the housing markets and planning analysis (HMPA) expert panel

Panel member		
Lead panel member:		
Professor Michael Ball	Reading University	
Panel members:		
David Adams	Glasgow University	
Peter Bibby	Sheffield University	
Neil Blake[1]	Experian	Also on NCRA panel
Glen Bramley	Heriot Watt University	
Paul Cheshire[1]	LSE	Also on NCRA panel
Christopher Cobbold	DTZ	
Simin Davoudi	Newcastle University	
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University	Also on NCRA and HCA panel
Alan Evans	Reading University	Also on NCRA panel
Diana Kasparova	Policy Studies Institute	
Dave King	Anglia University	
Philip Leather	Salford University	
Chris Leishman	Glasgow University	
Alex Marsh[1]	Bristol University	Also on HCA panel
Geoffrey Meen[1]	Reading University	
John Muellbauer	Oxford University	
Gwilym Pryce	Glasgow University	
Yvonne Rydin	UCL	
Christine Whitehead	LSE	
Peter Williams[1]	Independent Consultant	Also on HCA panel
Cecilia Wong	Manchester University	

Annex A2: Membership of the Neighbourhoods, cities and regions (NCRA) expert panel

Panel members		
Lead panel member:		
Michael Parkinson	Liverpool John Moores University	
Panel members:		
Neil Blake[1]	Experian	Joint with HMPA
Paul Cheshire[1]	LSE	Joint with HMPA
Ian Cole[1]	Sheffield Hallam University	Joint with HCA
Mike Coombes	Newcastle University	
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University	Joint all three panels
Ian Gordon	LSE	
Anne Green	Warwick University	
Carol Hayden	Shared Intelligence	
Adrian Healy	ECOTEC	
Paul Lawless[1]	Sheffield Hallam University	Joint with HCA
Geoff Meen[1]	Reading University	Joint with HMPA
Henry Overman	LSE	
Anne Power	LSE	
Patricia Rice	Oxford University	
Graham Russell	Amion	
Ludi Simpson	Manchester University	
Stephen Syrett	Middlesex University	
Vince Taylor	Vince Taylor Assoc	
Ivan Turok	Glasgow University	
Peter Tyler[1]	Cambridge University	Joint with HCA

Annex A3: Membership of the housing and communities (HCA) expert panel

Panel members		
Lead panel member		
Professor Mark Stephens	York University	
Panel members		
Jeff Austin	Independent Consultant	
Shaun Bennett	Civis Consultants	
Bob Blackaby	Independent Consultant	
Tim Blackman	Durham University	
Ian Cole[1]	Sheffield Hallam University-	Also on NCRA panel
David Cowan	Bristol University	
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University -	Also on NCRA and HMPA panel
Suzanne Fitzpatrick	York University	
Kenneth Gibb	Glasgow University	
David Hall	Tribal Group	
Adrian Jones	Independent Researcher	
Michael Jones	Cambridge University	
Paul Lawless	Sheffield Hallam University	Also on NCRA panel
Alex Marsh	Bristol University	Also on HMPA panel
Sarah Monk	Cambridge University	
David Mullins	Birmingham University	
David Ormandy	Warwick University	
Hal Pawson	Heriot Watt University	
Rob Rowlands	Birmingham University	
Rebecca Tunstall	LSE	
Peter Tyler[1]	Cambridge University -	Also on NCRA panel
Peter Williams[1]	Independent Consultant-	Also on HMPA panel

[1] Denotes membership of more than one expert panel

Departmental Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 537W, on departmental pay, who conducts the assessments of senior staff for bonuses. [212685]

Mr. Dhanda: The process for performance assessment and differentiation for all senior civil servants is fully outlined in the SCS Performance Management Guidance 2008/09 produced by Cabinet Office and available through their website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Under the SCS Performance Management Framework, managers may seek wider feedback from staff, peers and/or customers regarding an individual's leadership, performance management and capability building skills/behaviour. The manager and job-holder will then review individual performance against objectives, plus leadership behaviour demonstrated throughout the year. Proposed performance grouping and associated bonus recommendations are submitted to the Department's Senior Pay Committee for final moderation and ratification.

The Communities and Local Government Senior Pay Committee comprises the Permanent Secretary (Chair), Directors General, a non-Executive Director and key departmental representatives.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 537W, on departmental pay, how many bonuses were awarded to members of the home information pack team in 2007-08; and at what cost. [212686]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W, on departmental procurement, if she will place in the Library a copy of the list of names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to her Department in 2007-08, from purchase order data held in the departmental financial system. [212669]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Deprivation Indicators

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 312W, on the index of deprivation, whether permission has been gained to publish the underlying indicators. [212790]

Mr. Dhanda: Where permission was received the underlying indicators were published on the Department's website on 30 May 2008.

Homelessness: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to work with voluntary organisations to reduce levels of homelessness. [212275]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Government. We hold regular meetings with voluntary organisations such as Homeless Link and Shelter to help us drive forward our homelessness agenda.

We provide significant grant funding to voluntary organisations to tackle homelessness. In December 2007 we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the next three years 2008-11 to continue to support local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

In addition, we have also allocated £51 million of homeless grant for the period 2008-11 directly to the voluntary sector and £79.6 million capital funding has been allocated for 2008-11 to local authorities who will work in partnership with voluntary organisations to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

As part of our measures to further prevent and tackle youth homelessness we established the National Youth Homelessness Scheme (NYHS) jointly led by Centrepoint and YMCA England.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual funding to the National Housing Revenue Account necessary to ensure that improvements to housing stock condition are sustainable. [212326]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is work that is currently being taken forward in the context of our Review of Council Housing Finance. The review is due to report to Ministers in spring 2009, after which there will be a period of wider consultation on proposals.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to increase provision of affordable housing. [212274]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 14 May we announced three initiatives. The first is a £100 million expansion of the open market homebuy scheme, available for new build homes only. In 2008-09 this will enable 2,500 more first time buyers to purchase a new build home of their choice on the open market under our shared equity scheme.

The second is that the Housing Corporation will be spending up to £200 million in 2008-09 on funding RSLs to purchase unsold new build stock from developers, either for social rent, or for sale to first time buyers through our homebuy low cost home ownership scheme.

Finally, we have expanded the eligibility criteria so that all first time buyers with a household income under £60,000, who could not otherwise afford to buy, will be eligible for all our homebuy products.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the research commissioned by her Department on the Evaluation of Social Homebuy Scheme for Affordable Housing (reference RAE 3/6/135); and what the cost was of the research. [212745]

Caroline Flint: The report was published on 12 June 2008 in electronic format only at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/socialhomebuyevaluation

The total cost of the research was £160,877.40. This comprised a contract for £157,734.25 with the University of Birmingham to conduct the research and £3,143.12 typesetting and publication preparation costs.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate she has made of the cost. [212108]

Mr. Dhanda: No Ministers or officials from the Department are planning to attend the Beijing Olympic Games.

Squatters

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 980W, on squatters, when her Department or its predecessors last issued guidance to *(a)* the police and *(b)* local authorities on managing squatting. [212722]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to the police and/or local authorities on the specific issue of managing squatters, in this period.

Thames Gateway

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date in June 2008 she plans to publish an annual report on the Thames Gateway in June 2008; and if she will make a statement. [212755]

Caroline Flint: We are currently working with our partners to develop an annual report for the Thames Gateway, which we expect to be able to publish in the next few weeks.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of Thames Gateway funding for Castle Point was allocated to *(a)* Canvey Island and *(b)* other areas of Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years. [213024]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 824-26W.

All the Thames Gateway funding for Castle Point projects to date has been allocated to Canvey Island in each of the last five years.

Travelling People: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support or funding Planning Aid has given to Traveller groups on *(a)* planning applications, *(b)* planning appeals and (c) High Court challenges. [212628]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Aid offers support to Traveller groups on planning applications and appeals both through its casework and community planning activities. Planning Aid would normally refer cases involving a High Court challenge to organisations that specialise in supporting this process.

Planning Aid does not provide direct funding for Traveller groups, nor would it support their legal costs.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the additional guidelines for seeking travel permission and aid distribution clearance put in place by the Burmese authorities on 9 June; and what representations his Department has made to the Burmese authorities on this matter. [212074]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 9 June the Ministry of Planning issued a new set of "Guiding Principles" to be followed by the UN, INGOs and NGOs in carrying out cyclone relief. The new guidance stated that all visas and permissions for internal travel and for the import and distribution of relief supplies were to be obtained through relevant line ministries, rather than centrally through the Ministry of Social Welfare. On 20 June the Government of Burma retracted the "Guiding Principles" and reverted to the previous system where all visas are processed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all travel permits by the Ministry of Social Welfare. We hope that this will be a positive move in facilitating access.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to widen accessibility to treatment for people with AIDS in developing countries. [209715]

Gillian Merron: On 2 June the UK Government launched their updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world". The strategy sets out the UK's response to tackling HIV and AIDS in developing countries to 2015, including access to treatment. Working with others, the UK will work to reduce drug prices and increase access to more affordable and sustainable treatment over the long-term. This could yield cost efficiency savings of at least £50 million per annum, enough to fund medicines for an additional one million people every year.

The UK Government launched the Medical Transparency Alliance (MeTA) in May. By disclosing information on the price, quality and availability of medicines, MeTA will help to increase public accountability and improve access to medicines, including HIV treatment. The UK will also continue to support UNITAID, the international drugs purchase facility, to reduce the cost of HIV treatment.

Starting in 2008, the Department for International Development will support a new regional programme on Access to Medicines in Southern Africa. The programme will spend £10 million over the first three years to deliver more affordable, quality medicines and diagnostics, including for HIV and AIDS.

A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Peacekeeping Operations: Misconduct

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with UN officials on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of children by peacekeepers; what measures have been proposed to prevent such abuse; and if he will make a statement. [211883]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The UK takes all allegations of misconduct by UN and other peacekeepers extremely seriously and we believe strongly that UN personnel must uphold the highest standards of behaviour. The vast majority of UN peacekeepers uphold those standards while doing important work in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

The UN is responsible for tackling allegations of misconduct directly with troop contributing countries. We will continue to work closely with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other partners to ensure that its 'zero tolerance' policy towards incidents of abuse is implemented in full.

We are providing support to the UN's efforts to assess, prioritise and respond to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children by UN peacekeepers and aid workers. This includes taking concrete measures to address both the military and civilian branches of peacekeeping support operations. One such measure, the UN's Conduct and Discipline Units, is funded by the UK's Conflict Prevention Pool. These teams work to ensure that all peacekeeping personnel undergo training on UN standards of conduct relating to sexual exploitation and abuse, and that all allegations of wrongdoing are reported upon and followed up with appropriate action. In the UN Mission in Liberia, for example, the number of cases reported to the UN was reduced by half from 2006 to 2007.

We have been successful in working with the UN to instigate policy changes aimed at preventing and tackling sexual exploitation and abuse. These include: a Victim's Assistance Strategy to provide assistance to survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by UN personnel; a more robust Model Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and Troop Contributing Countries; an upgraded Welfare and Recreation Strategy for peacekeeping and related personnel; and a resolution on 'Criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission'.

The UK supports efforts to protect the world's most vulnerable children from sexual abuse. To further strengthen the UN's approach, the UK supported the UN Secretary-General's recent recommendation to include, where appropriate, child protection advisers within the mandates of peacekeeping missions. As an active member of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we will continue to work to improve the effectiveness of existing UN monitoring, reporting and disciplinary mechanisms.

Through its Conflict Prevention programme, the UK also helps to train military personnel for peacekeeping operations. Good conduct and respect for human rights is an integral part of all training courses. The UK will continue to provide training on peace support operations for troops from other countries, which covers conduct and discipline, particularly the importance of protecting civilians in accordance with international law.

PRIME MINISTER

Devolution: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Prime Minister what subjects were discussed during his talks with the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin at the time of the establishment of the new Northern Ireland Executive; what the outcome was of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [213121]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 918-19W.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister what response he made to President Bush's public request for the presence of UK armed forces in Iraq to be maintained; and if he will make a statement. [213343]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with President Bush on 16 June 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15783.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Joint Intelligence Committee: Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister how many members of staff of the Joint Intelligence Committee have received honours in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [211985]

The Prime Minister: The Joint Intelligence Committee is supported by a Secretariat based in the Cabinet Office. The Honours Lists are published in The London Gazette on the occasion of the Queen's birthday in June and at new year. The lists sets out which Department civil servants are from.

Northern Ireland Executive: Finance

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to make any changes to financial arrangements relating to the Northern Ireland Executive following recent talks between the Government, Sinn Féin and the Democratic Unionist Party. [213122]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave at my monthly press conference on 12 June 2008. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15739.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Swimming

10. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what procedure local authorities will be able to access Government funding for free swimming programmes; and if he will make a statement. [212575]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney).

12. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what effect he expects his proposal to introduce free swimming to have on quality of life in areas of high deprivation. [212580]

Andy Burnham: There are some unique health benefits to swimming, particularly so for the over 60s. Swimming is also the most popular physical recreation for adults, and a key means of increasing the amount of exercise people take. But we know that cost can be a barrier to participation for some, and that this can be exacerbated in areas of high deprivation.

13. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the process is for local authorities to apply for central Government funding for the provision of free swimming. [212581]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney).

Television Services: Sight-impaired People

11. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to ensure that digital switchover will not adversely affect blind and partially-sighted people. [212579]

Margaret Hodge: Blind or partially sighted people are eligible for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme which provides help with equipment, installation and after-care support.

Audio Description (AD), an additional narration on TV programmes that describes on-screen action, is accessible through the equipment provided by the scheme.

The Government, Digital UK and the help scheme, continue to consult the RNIB about how best to help people with visual impairments through the switchover process.

Community Regeneration

14. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Sport England on its contribution to community regeneration; and if he will make a statement. [212582]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no recent discussions with Sport England on this subject.

Sport England has recently developed a new strategy focused on a world leading community sports system. This will sustain and increase participation in grassroots sport among all groups and allow everyone to develop their sporting talent to the full.

Sport is a key player in a number of areas of community social regeneration. Sports projects can have a significant impact by breaking down barriers and providing positive opportunities for people to mix with others. Sport can also help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour; and increase peoples' levels of trust and community involvement.

Lottery Costs

16. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he next expects to meet the chief executives of the lottery funds to discuss administrative costs. [212584]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have no plans to do so. We encourage lottery distributors to keep their administrative costs as low as possible and they are committed to this.

Listed Sporting Events

17. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to begin the review of the listed sporting events regime. [212585]

Andy Burnham: Any decision on the commencement of a review of listed events will be made following the outcome of Ofcom's current review of Public Service Broadcasting and the findings of the Government's Convergence Think Tank.

Young People: Empowerment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department plans to deliver the Government's pledge to empower young people through sport. [212570]

Andy Burnham: The DCMS and DCSF have joint responsibility to deliver the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People and to date over £2.2 billion has been committed through the strategy up to 2011.

Government will continue to work through our delivery partners to engage and empower more young people in sport. Sport England, under their new strategy, will work in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust to develop more opportunities for young people to participate in high quality coaching and competition and gain greater access to the club system.

Binge Drinking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the measures in the Licensing Act 2003 in combating binge drinking. [212583]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The evaluation of the Licensing Act 2003 was published on 4 March this year. Our main conclusion was that businesses and consumers have been using the freedoms provided but that more could be done to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour. There are, however, limits to the impact licensing law can have on the personal behaviour in terms of consumption. We have therefore announced, in the Youth Alcohol Action Plan, measures which are designed to tackle binge drinking among young people. The Government also expect to consider further action when the ongoing Alcohol Price, Promotion and Harm review reports this summer.

Arts: Publicity

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers and public affairs employees were employed by *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(b)* the Arts Council, *(c)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(d)* Sport England, *(e)* UK Sport and *(f)* the UK Film Council in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [206727]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 May 2008]*: Figures for the number of press officers and public affairs employees in each of the last three years, and their cost, as provided by the bodies in question, are set out in the following table. Some of these bodies cover the whole of the United Kingdom and others cover only England. The figures represent the total number of individuals employed during each financial year, not the number of full-time equivalents. Many of these individuals spent only a small proportion of their time on press and/or public affairs work, and some were only in post for part of a financial year.

	2007-08		*2006-07*		*2005-06*	
	Number	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*
Big Lottery Fund	18	606,009	15	538,473	15	509,350
Arts Council England	8	172,484	9	157,002	9	253,050
Heritage Lottery Fund	6	240,193	6	222,820	5	211,472
Sport England	4	164,819	7	183,924	5	239,101
UK Sport	5	168,798	4	152,271	4	119,528
UK Film Council	2	75,136	2	69,404	2	82,009

Culture: Education

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the selection of the Find Your Talent pilot areas. [212578]

Margaret Hodge: On 29 May 2008 we announced the 10 selected Find Your Talent pilots that will trial ways of offering children and young people a range of high quality cultural experiences for five hours a week, both in and out of school.

The organisations leading these pilots are:

Bolton borough council;

The Creative Foundation (serving Shepway District and including Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh);

Customs House (North and South Tyneside);

Hampshire county council;

Leeds Children's Services;

Leicestershire county council;

Liverpool City Region1 Partnership (serving three Merseyside neighbourhoods);

North Somerset;

Telford and Wrekin council; and

Tower Hamlets.

The pilots will begin their work in September 2008.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211121]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS regularly invites external sectoral experts to contribute to policy evaluation and reviews, but there have been no formal retrospective independent inquiries into decisions, or courses of actions, commissioned by DCMS during the last five years.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agency spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212028]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency, The Royal Parks, spent a combined total of £39,922 on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of translation and interpretation services in 2007-08 broken down by language were as follows:

Language	*Cost (£)*
Translation Services	
Welsh	18,660.75
Interpretation Services	
British Sign Language Interpreter	350

Football: Sports Grounds

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received on the campaign for safe standing areas in top-flight football grounds in England in the last 12 months; what plans he has to meet with football clubs and supporters groups to discuss this matter; and if he will make a statement. [212848]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: I have received a number of representations on the campaign for safe standing areas. I have discussed this matter with the Football Association, local authorities, the police and the Home Office. The consensus among all parties is that there is no wish to re-introduce any standing areas at grounds in the top two divisions.

No new evidence has been presented to suggest that there is a single more effective way of achieving safety as well as public order than all seater stadia. The Government therefore remain fully committed to the current policy.

Strip Clubs

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Home Department on the regulation of lap dancing clubs. [212260]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had a number of meetings and telephone conversations with my hon. Friend, the Minister for Crime Reduction, about concerns relating to the regulation of lap dancing and similar establishments. He has agreed to consider, along with relevant ministerial colleagues, whether we need to do more to support local communities in controlling these establishments. As a first step, I have recently written to chief executives of local authorities to clarify the powers available under the Licensing Act and to seek their views on whether these, and other controls, are sufficient to respond to the concerns of local people. I am arranging for a copy of my letter to be deposited in the Library of the House.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the global economic climate on tourism to the UK; what steps he plans to take to address those effects; and if he will make a statement. [210186]

Margaret Hodge: It is too early to say if the current economic climate is affecting tourism to the UK. But indications for both inbound and domestic tourism remain positive for 2008.

The latest inbound tourism figures from the Office of National Statistics show that the number of visitors to the UK for the three months to April 2008 was, at 8.4 million, broadly the same as in 2007, and 5 per cent. up on the previous three months.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence: Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of serious sexual assault in each of the last three years. [211337]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the number of prosecutions and convictions for serious sexual assaults by type of offence for the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest available years).

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Prosecutions and Convictions for serious sexual assault offences by type of offence 2004 to 2006

	2004		2005		2006	
Offence	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Rape	29	15	21	4	32	11
Attempted rape	8	3	9	4	5	0
Gross indecency with child	5	3	10	6	6	5
Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent	1	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	11	6	3	1	7	3
Buggery with a woman	1	1	0	0	0	0
Buggery with a girl	3	1	2	0	1	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	4	4	4	3	3	3
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 years	3	2	4	4	6	5
Incest by man on female	0	0	1	1	1	1
Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her	0	0	1	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female	89	57	85	51	109	73
Indecent assault on male	20	17	16	11	14	8
Indecent assault on female child	8	3	20	18	5	2
Indecent assault on male child	6	4	8	5	1	0
Indecent exposure with intent to assault a female	3	2	5	2	9	6
Total	191	118	189	110	199	117

Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what records his Department holds on the size of the average domestic rate bill in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [205438]

Paul Goggins: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Domestic Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of domestic violence were reported to the police in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* police command unit and *(b)* council area. [211349]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> The following table details how many cases of domestic violence have been reported to the police in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. The figures are broken down by police command unit, which map onto district council areas, with the exception of Belfast. The four command units for Belfast when combined reflect the council area. Protection of the public from violent and sexual offenders remains a top priority for government. The launch of the new five-year regional strategy to tackle sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland is aimed at reducing the unacceptably high level of these kinds of offences.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Antrim	706	595	688
Ards	843	1,012	858
Armagh	482	497	534
Ballymena	584	516	600
Ballymoney	272	232	286
Banbridge	431	406	433
Carrickfergus	480	419	460
Castlereagh	432	493	485
Coleraine	1,072	1,183	998
Cookstown	503	386	367
Craigavon	1,403	1,460	1,283
Down	670	792	674
Dungannon and South Tyrone	406	476	355
East Belfast	1,336	1,513	1,376
Fermanagh	609	557	592
Foyle	1,691	1,561	1,742
Larne	313	272	329
Limavady	460	564	551
Lisburn	1,551	1,819	1,539
Magherafelt	345	342	323
Moyle	128	145	139
Newry and Mourne	960	954	832
Newtownabbey	973	941	963
North Belfast	2,157	2,231	2,199
North Down	919	867	862
Omagh	723	789	728
South Belfast	999	886	968
Strabane	498	479	484
West Belfast	1,113	1,069	1,428
Northern Ireland	23,059	23,456	23,076

Offensive Weapons: Schools

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland were found to be in illegal possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in each of the last three years. [211347]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The number of pupils in Northern Ireland who have been found to be in illegal possession of a weapon on school premises in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2005-06	5
2006-07	9
2007-08	6

These figures are based on the following offences -possessing article with blade or point and possession of offensive weapon on school premises.

The number of pupils who have been found to be in illegal possession of drugs on school premises in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2005-06	5
2006-07	3
2007-08	1

The number of arrests for possession of drugs on school premises includes the offence of intent to supply.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were recruited to the Police Service of Northern Ireland from each Neighbourhood Renewal area in each of the last five years. [208233]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following information:

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
Campaign number	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13	Total
Belfast	2	4	4	1	4	3	2	5	3	28
Londonderry	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	9
Other	4	8	4	3	5	8	2	3	3	40

Notes:

1. Belfast includes: Andersonstown, Crumlin/Ardoyne, Falls/Clonard, Greater Shankill, Inner North Belfast, Outer West Belfast, Rathcoole, South West Belfast, Upper Ardoyne/Ballysillan, Upper Springfield/Whiterock.
2. Londonderry includes: Outer West Derry and Waterside.
3. Other includes: Bangor, Brownlow, Coleraine Churchlands, Coleraine East, Colin, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Limavady, Lurgan, Newry, Portadown North West

There were no recruits from the following Neighbourhood Renewal Areas: Armagh, Ballyclare, Ballymena, Coalisland, Dungannon, Inner East Belfast, Inner South Belfast, Ligoniel, Omagh, Strabane, Tullycarnet, Triax City Side.

This analysis is based on postcode information provided at time of application (correspondence address). Not all applicants provide a valid postcode.

The PSNI tasks its recruitment agent to advertise extensively across Northern Ireland to reach all sections of the community and remains committed to a police service that represents all communities in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* mentoring or shadowing programmes and *(b)* pilot police cadet schemes as methods of increasing recruitment of young people from a Protestant background in inner city areas of Northern Ireland into the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [208235]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has advised that the Police Service organises work experience schemes to promote an understanding of careers in policing. These schemes are not reviewed in order to specifically identify whether they are effective in attracting young people from a Protestant background in inner city areas of Northern Ireland.

There is no pilot police cadet scheme.

The PSNI tasks its recruitment agent to advertise extensively across Northern Ireland to reach all sections of the community and remains committed to a police service that represents all communities in Northern Ireland.

Racial Hatred

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were the victim of racially-motivated attacks in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* police command unit and *(b)* council district. [211348]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following table details the number of people who have been the victim of racially-motivated attacks in each of the last three years. The figures are broken down by police command unit, which map onto district council areas, with the exception of Belfast. The four command units for Belfast when combined reflect the council area.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Antrim	37	66	50
Ards	28	31	18
Armagh	20	14	15
Ballymena	53	41	63
Ballymoney	7	6	1
Banbridge	4	10	4
Carrickfergus	6	18	18
Castlereagh	21	23	33
Coleraine	37	26	17
Cookstown	21	17	11
Craigavon	78	71	81
Down	13	17	8
Dungannon and South Tyrone	102	58	38
East Belfast	74	79	81
Fermanagh	29	33	31
Foyle	27	19	15
Larne	2	8	3
Limavady	7	9	8
Lisburn	43	58	37
Magherafelt	17	22	16
Moyle	7	2	4
Newry and Mourne	35	42	24
Newtownabbey	52	78	84
North Belfast	62	82	98
North Down	20	47	35
Omagh	13	23	12
South Belfast	106	126	149
Strabane	2	3	2
West Belfast	13	18	20
Northern Ireland	936	1,047	976

Sheridan Group

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1387-8W, on the Sheridan Group, when his Department referred the matter to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI); when the PSNI responded; and if he will make public the response he received from the Chief Constable detailing the actions taken by the PSNI to investigate allegations of criminal activity by the Sheridan Group. [207872]

Paul Goggins: Following the allegations, the NIO contacted the PSNI on a number of occasions about the matter. These contacts were at the highest level in both organisations.

The Chief Constable subsequently advised that the PSNI had no evidence to suggest the Sheridan Group had been engaged in criminal activity. The action taken by the PSNI to investigate the allegations is a matter for the Chief Constable.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long British troops have been operating in Zabul Province; how many troops are based there; what their mission is; and what assessment he has made of the security situation in the province. [210641]

Des Browne: British troops of the Third Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, plus support elements, totalling up to around 400 personnel, deployed to Zabul Province on 3 June 2008. The troops form the Regional Battlegroup (South), whose mission is to undertake mobile operations against known Taliban areas of activity across the southern region, without being tied to a particular geographical area.

The security situation in Zabul province is generally similar to other areas of the southern region of Afghanistan, in that ISAF forces continue to make progress in disrupting Taliban activity and thereby enabling reconstruction and development activity.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities of ISAF members there have been over the last five years. [212458]

Des Browne: The UK armed forces have suffered 106 fatalities in Afghanistan since 2001. We do not comment on the casualties suffered by other nations, which are matters for the countries concerned.

Aircraft Carriers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of high-tech contracts arising from the construction of the two new aircraft carriers will be competitively tendered. [212094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Aircraft Carrier Alliance estimates that over 60 per cent. of procurement subcontracts (by value) will be competitively tendered.

Armed Forces

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support is provided to the families of British service personnel killed in action. [212166]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1145W, to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr Wallace).

Armed Forces: Officers

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officers in the armed forces were serving abroad at the most recent date for which figures are available. [213161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for the stationed location of UK regular forces are available in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: "UK Regular Forces stationed location".

Information by rank of those who are serving abroad is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officers in the armed forces occupy service accommodation as their main place of residence. [213162]

Derek Twigg: Information on whether service accommodation is the main residence of the officers concerned is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officers there were in each of the services in each year since 1997. [213163]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the strength of the UK regular forces by rank is published in table 2 of Tri-Service Publication 9, "UK Regular Forces Rank Structure" (TSP 9). Copies of the most recent and historical publications can be found at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

In TSP 9, 4 star officers are referred to as OF-9, 3 star officers as OF-8, 2 star officers as OF-7 and 1 star officers as OF-6. 1997 data are not available on our website and are provided in the following table:

UK regular strength of 1 to 4 star officers, at 1 April 1997

	1 star	2 star	3 star	4 star
Naval Service	82	30	9	4
Army	170	43	10	6
RAF	95	34	8	5

Notes:

1. Figures less than 100 have been left unrounded so as not to obscure the data.
2. Those above 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the income of a private soldier who had completed basic training was as a proportion of that of a *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officer in each year since 1997. [213164]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The basic pay of a trained private soldier, expressed as proportion of that of a *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officer in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table:

	Privates annual pay expressed as a percentage of annual pay of a			
	1 star officer	2 star officer	3 star officer	4 star officer
1997	16.34	15.09	13.34	9.88
1998	16.42	15.43	13.54	10.10
1999	16.47	15.60	13.69	10.21
2000	16.67	15.78	13.84	10.33
2001	16.98	15.36	13.76	10.33
2002	17.06	15.10	12.93	10.50
2003	17.15	15.36	13.16	10.69
2004	17.21	15.37	13.17	10.69
2005	17.21	15.37	13.04	10.74
2006	17.26	15.42	13.07	9.95
2007	18.27	16.55	14.03	10.36
2008	17.54	16.52	14.04	10.49

The minimum rate of pay has been used for each rank. The figures reflect basic pay only, i.e. those rates paid in accordance with an individual's rank, trade and seniority. Other elements of the military remuneration package, such as specialist pay and allowances, are not included.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on the armed forces: vehicles, for what reasons and when the restrictions on speed and distance in relation to dual purpose vehicles referred to in the answer were brought in; when they were brought in; and if he will make a statement. [212312]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: Speeds and distance regulations for dual purpose vehicles (DPVs) were introduced in January 2005. They were brought in to mitigate some of the risks of using standard seating systems, established following a risk review.

Enhanced seating systems are being progressively phased in through the DPV fleet, a programme which began in May 2007, to improve comfort and safety. In September 2007 the speed and distance restrictions for enhanced seating systems were introduced.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current average individual separated service rate is for each unit in the *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(c)* Royal Logistics Corps, *(d)* Royal Engineers and *(e)* Royal Artillery. [211974]

Derek Twigg: This information is not currently held and to produce this would incur disproportionate cost.

Defence Medical Services: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the efficiency savings required by his Department from Defence Medical Services were in 2007-08; and what the planned savings targets are for 2008-09. [200932]

Derek Twigg: Under the spending review 2004 efficiency programme, the MOD was required to achieve £2.83 billion of cumulative input and output efficiency savings by the end of 2007-08. Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Health) Higher Level Budget (DCDS(H) HLB) delivered £102 million of this target in output efficiencies. This was achieved primarily in the patient care pathways through the Defence Rehabilitation Programme. By improving access to diagnosis, rehabilitation and orthopaedic surgery the MOD saved an estimated 1.27 million deployable man-days in 2007-08 that would otherwise have been lost while individuals waited for treatment.

As part of the 2007 financial planning round, further efficiency savings targets of £3.7 million for 2007-08 and £1.4 million for 2008-09 were agreed with the DCDS(H) HLB.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned change in defence spending is in each of the next three financial years. [212338]

Des Browne: The Defence Budget for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review and pre-Budget-report (CM 7227). The Budget for 2011-12 and beyond will be set as part of the next spending review.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211120]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last five years, the Ministry of Defence has commissioned the following independent inquiries and reviews:

The Baha Mousa Inquiry

We announced on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 60-61WS, an independent inquiry into the death of Baha Mousa, who died in British custody in Iraq in September 2003. The terms of reference are being determined.

The Review of the loss of MOD laptops

On 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1255, we announced an independent review of the loss of MOD data. The terms of reference are:

> To establish the exact circumstances and events that led to the loss by MOD of personal data; to examine the adequacy of the steps taken to prevent any recurrence, and of MOD policy, practice and management arrangements in respect of the protection of personal data more generally; to make recommendations; and to report to MOD's Permanent Secretary not later than 30 April 2008.

The review is complete and a ministerial announcement will be made soon. The costs of this review were £44,961.

The Nimrod Review

On 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 685, we announced an independent review into the loss of RAF Nimrod XV230 in Afghanistan on 2 September 2006. The terms of reference are:

> In light of the board of inquiry report: to examine the arrangements for assuring the airworthiness and safe operation of the Nimrod MR2 in the period from its introduction in 1979 to the accident on 2 September 2006, including hazard analysis, the safety case compiled in 2005, maintenance arrangements, and responses to any earlier incidents which might have highlighted the risk and led to corrective action;
>
> To assess where responsibility lies for any failures and what lessons are to be learned;
>
> To assess more broadly the process for compiling safety cases, taking account of best practice in the civilian and military world; and
>
> To make recommendations to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable, if necessary by way of interim report.

This review is still under way.

The Iran Hostage Reviews

On 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, we announced two reviews of Iran's illegal detention of 15 service personnel.

The first was on operational aspects of the incident including risk and threat assessment, strategic and operational planning, tactical decisions, rules of engagement, training, equipment and resources. The HCDC has been fully briefed on recommendations, and on progress in relation to the full implementation of the resulting action plan. The costs of this review were not collated centrally but were restricted to travel costs.

The terms of reference of the second were:

> "To conduct a review of media access to individual personnel involved in operations, particularly in such high-profile incidents. The review is to draw on all relevant experience, including recent incidents and other high-profile incidents; consider how best to manage the complex issues at play, including in balancing our responsibilities to support our people and their families, to safeguard the security of our people and operations, to protect the reputation of the services, and to meet the requirements of transparency in a demanding media environment; and identify lessons and make recommendations for any necessary changes in policy, regulations, processes and practice, including in relation to media payments to our personnel."

Where costs have been provided they do not include the staff costs of MOD personnel seconded to the review team.

The Government's response, accepting all the review's recommendations, was announced on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1255. The costs of this review were £7,200.

The Deepcut Review

On 30 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 500, we announced an independent review into the deaths of four soldiers at Deepcut barracks between 1995 and 2002. The terms of reference were:

> Urgently to review the circumstances surrounding the deaths of four soldiers at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut between 1995 and 2002 in light of available material and any representations that might be made in this regard, and to produce a report.

The total cost of the review was £866,980. The Government's response was announced on 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 637W. Since then, Dr. Susan Atkins has been appointed as the first Service Complaints Commissioner, and a new service complaints process came into effect on 1 January 2008.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on his Department's civil servant bonuses was in 2007-08, broken down by level of bonus. [211395]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W, and 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 517W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Ex-servicemen: Mentally Ill

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans are in place to ensure that those armed forces veterans who have developed mental health conditions receive sufficient support. [211398]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is working with the four UK Health Departments in piloting a new expert mental health care service for veterans in the UK. The pilots will run for two years and, following independent evaluation, the intention is to roll the model out nationwide. Veterans with mental health problems, in particular those from areas not yet involved in the pilots, may attend our Medical Assessment Programme based at St. Thomas' hospital, London if they have served on operations since 1982; this offers an expert mental health assessment from a psychiatrist who has an extensive background of service in the armed forces. Veterans will also benefit from the decision last November to extend priority treatment to all veterans in Great Britain whose condition is considered by their GP to be due to service.

The MOD funds war pensioners undergoing "remedial treatment" at Ex Service Mental Welfare Society ("Combat Stress") homes. MOD gave Combat Stress £2.5 million in fees in 2006-07 and agreed in October to a phased increase in the fees, rising to 45 per cent. from 1 January 2008, to enable them to enhance their capability to treat veterans.

Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, on fuels, in what ways his Department has worked in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive to maintain security and safety at the Redcliffe Bay oil storage depot site. [211656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Responsibility for site security at the Redcliffe Bay oil storage depot rests with the Oil and Pipelines Agency (OPA) on behalf of the MOD. In discharging this responsibility the OPA works closely with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on matters relating to site safety including regular top level management meetings and programmed HSE site visits.

HMS Victory

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the state of preservation of HMS Victory, with particular reference to *(a)* rot and *(b)* distortion of timbers. [211494]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 June 2008]:* The MOD is committed to maintaining HMS Victory in a sound material state for the nation for generations to come. To achieve this, a planned maintenance regime is in place that includes regular whole ship surveys.

In the late 1990s a new technique was adopted to ascertain the extent of rot in the ship's timbers and in particular the ship's hull planking. A survey in 2002 identified an increase in the rot in the hull planking; it also enabled the Department to predict the rate of decay. Subsequent surveys have confirmed these findings.

As a result of the 2002 survey, we started work to secure legal and sustainable hull planks to replace the rotten ones. Sufficient material has now been obtained and work on the hull is scheduled to start towards the end of 2008.

A system for monitoring the movement and form of HMS Victory has been in place since the 1970s, with an improved system being installed in 2005 that allows accurate measurements to be taken on a monthly basis. The movement of the ship is well understood and there is no evidence of any movement of the ship as a result of the degradation of the hull planking.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding has been made available for the preservation of HMS Victory; and what programme of work *(a)* has been carried out and *(b)* remains to be completed. [211495]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 June 2008]:* Since HMS Victory's restoration was completed for Trafalgar 200 in 2005, returning the ship to its 1805 Battle of Trafalgar condition, only essential repair work has been carried out. Since then, MOD has undertaken detailed research to develop a full understanding of the structural condition of the ship and its construction.

This has enabled the Department to select the correct materials for future repairs and to fully understand where and how repairs are to be carried out.

The most significant task to be completed is the replacement of much of the hull planking. In addition, a structure in the After Hold that was removed many years ago, before restoration commenced, is to be reinstated to improve the structural integrity of the ship.

The work is expected to take several years due to the complex nature of the task, but will enable its condition to be assured for several generations.

Sufficient funding is already in place for the most critical packages of work; additional funding will be sought as necessary in accordance with normal MOD processes.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department makes arrangements to provide protection for Iraqi people working for the British Army and for their families. [212396]

Des Browne: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr. Anderson) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 102W.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to withdraw troops from Iraq. [212453]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1716W.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* 1 star, *(b)* 2 star, *(c)* 3 star and *(d)* 4 star officers in the armed forces were deployed to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [213165]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Deployment figures are available centrally by location and by service.

The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* replacement lifting gear and *(b)* temporary alternative arrangements were considered for those Chinook helicopters in theatre which had their winches removed. [183612]

Des Browne: I will write to the hon. Member

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Ann Winterton:

My Rt hon. Friend the Defence Secretary undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 February 2008, (Official Report, column 569W) about replacement and alternative winches for Chinook helicopters. I am sorry that it has taken so long to respond.

Researching the answer to this question has required an examination of detailed Supply Chain records to provide information on the question of the availability of specific items of lifting gear within theatre. Regrettably, this work took longer than expected.

I have taken your question to arise from the incident in Kajaki, Afghanistan in September 2006 during which Corporal (Cpl) Mark Wright GC was killed. This incident was the subject of an internal Board of Inquiry (BOI), the results of which were given to the next of kin of those involved. The BOI found: that a number of British soldiers entered an unmarked minefield; that multiple mine detonations over a short period of time followed; and, that the injured were eventually extracted by a US helicopter. The BOI also found that the arrival of this helicopter was delayed by mechanical problems, and although a British Chinook helicopter arrived at the scene earlier it did not attempt to extract the soldiers, in part, because it was not fitted with a winch — all such items having been withdrawn from the Chinook force some months earlier.

The BOI concluded that no winches were available for the Chinook but the more recent Supply Chain investigation found that not all winches were affected by the maintenance issue that resulted in those fitted to Chinooks in Afghanistan being withdrawn back to the UK. In fact, a small number were available to the Chinook force at around the time of the Kajaki incident.

On first inspection it seems odd that winches could have been available to the Chinook force but not deployed forward immediately to replace the winches which were recalled. This seems particularly odd in the light of the media reporting that had the Chinook which was called to assist in the incident had a winch, it would have been able to rescue those trapped in the minefield.

The reason that the replacement winches were not deployed forward immediately can be explained by the fact that, in September 2006, there was no formal requirement for UK Chinooks in Afghanistan to be fitted with winches. Chinooks have "role equipment" which can be taken off or put on the airframe as and when it is considered necessary by the military chain of command. The aircraft that went to Afghanistan did have winches already fitted when they deployed but without a formal requirement for them, once the winches had been removed there was no immediate pressure to replace them, and there were no requests from the military chain of command in Theatre for the winches to be replaced.

This can be further explained by the fact that using helicopters to extract personnel from minefields is widely recognised as being an extremely hazardous undertaking, only to be used in exceptional circumstances; our preferred approach to minefield extraction is either through the use of Explosive Ordnance Disposal assets or through self-extraction using techniques in which all deployed personnel are trained. Given this, it is understandable that no Standard Operating Procedures existed in theatre at the time governing the use of Chinook helicopters in extracting injured personnel from minefields, and that Chinook crews are not routinely trained in winch operations in such circumstances. Indeed, the Chinook crew involved in the incident has confirmed that, even if a winch had been fitted to their Chinook they did not consider it safe, either for those on the ground or in the aircraft, to attempt a winch extraction.

It is worth pointing out however that even though the UK Chinook fleet at the time did not have a formal requirement for winches there was a winch capability available to UK forces in Theatre. Coalition helicopter assets were pooled and winch capability was available from US assets — through both a US Combat Search and Rescue capability with a HH-60G helicopter, and a US Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) Team, also with a HH-60G. And it was the US Combat Search and Rescue capability which successfully extracted Cpl Wright. That it did so successfully was testament to the ability and courage of the crew who the Board of Inquiry found "acted with complete disregard for their own safety." In fact, this was such an exceptionally brave manoeuvre that their actions were recognised by Her Majesty with a Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air.

Thus there was an available winch capability in theatre but not through a formal requirement placed upon UK helicopter assets, and replacement winches were not requested. Moreover, the introduction of other temporary alternatives would not have been a practicable proposition as they would have required detailed testing to be carried out and appropriate clearances to be obtained; a process which typically takes approximately six months to secure.

You would wish to be aware that all Chinooks, Merlins and Sea King helicopters deployed on operational Immediate Response Team tasks now have a winch capability to provide greater flexibility of response to the different kinds of incidents they face.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of each type of helicopter are planned to be in service with each armed service in 2020. [210087]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Given that the majority of the helicopters in our current fleets have out of service dates prior to 2020, and that investment decisions are yet to be taken, it is not possible to predict with any certainty the number and type of helicopters which will be in service in 2020.

Orchid Programme

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for placing information about the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* operation of the Orchid programme in the public domain. [211225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department currently has no plans to place any information in the public domain relating to either the procurement of the Orchid vehicle tracking system or its operational capacity/use. The Ministry of Defence Police have not used the Orchid system since 2004-05.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the decision to procure the Orchid programme. [211226]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Orchid system was procured by the MOD police in 2000. The decision to procure the Orchid patrol vehicle tracking system was made in financial year 1999-2000. The system was identified as a safety solution, enabling tracking of MOD police vehicles (cars and boats) that were used by the area policing teams (APT) which had a roaming police role. APTs were restructured in 2004 and re-tasked without need to continue the Orchid contract.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which defence contractors have been engaged in supplying *(a)* components and *(b)* services relating to the Orchid programme. [211227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following defence contractors were engaged in supplying components and providing services which related to the Orchid patrol vehicle tracking system: Orchid, Global Telematics (now Thales Telematics), Siemens and VDO.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been allocated to the procurement of the Orchid programme. [211228]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The original purchase order for Orchid was approved for £352,500 (including VAT). By the end of the contract in 2005, a total of £385,860 had been spent. The £33,360 overspend was largely attributed to the extension of the contract to roll Orchid out to a further 14 vehicles in 2001.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings he or officials from his Department have had with external suppliers on the Orchid programme. [211229]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not had any meetings with external suppliers on the Orchid programme since 2005.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists were on active service as part of British military operations at the latest date for which figures are available. [203679]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 May 2008, the number of volunteer reservists called out into permanent service was:

	Number
Royal Naval Reserve	100
Royal Marine Reserve	90
Territorial Army	1,176
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	145
Total	1,511

Trident

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast expenditure on Trident 2 is in real terms, expressed in 2008 prices, for each future year for which forecasts have been made. [211504]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated costs of the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994), and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007, over the next three years are:

	£ million at 2008 prices
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400

The main part of the programme has yet to reach the initial gate business case approval stage. Detailed spending plans for future years, therefore, have yet to be set.

Veterans Day

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on making Veterans' Day a national bank holiday; and if he will make a statement. [213003]

Derek Twigg: To date I have received no formal representations on making Veterans Day a national bank holiday.

We are in the process of considering the report of the inquiry undertaken by my hon. Friend the Member for

Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) into national recognition of our armed forces which recommends the creation of a British Armed Forces and Veterans Day and suggests that this would be the right solution were the Government minded to propose to Parliament the creation of another public holiday. Lead responsibility for the latter aspect lies with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR).

Warships: Weapons

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what major armaments systems have recently been removed from *(a)* HMS Southampton and *(b)* HMS Exeter; when this change in capability was carried out; when it was decided to make this information public; and if he will make a statement. [210474]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: HMS Southampton had her Sea Dart missiles offloaded in January2008 and HMS Exeter's were removed in July 2007. There was no prior decision to make this public. HMS Southampton and HMS Exeter continue to be armed with weapon system capabilities required to meet their tasking.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison: Young Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people under the age of 21 years in prison for non-violent offences. [212375]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 gave sentencers more options and greater flexibility in imposing adult community sentences which provide a tough and effective alternative to custody. The Government are allocating further funds, including £40 million to probation in 2008-09, so that sentencers can be confident that the resources are in place to deliver effective community punishments. In addition the Government are also providing £13.9 million to fund at least six intensive alternative to custody projects over the next three years.

We have also revised the community sentencing structure for young people to provide disposals that offer sentencers a strong community alternative to custody. We have introduced the referral order which is the main disposal for young defendants pleading guilty and convicted for the first time, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme which caters for serious and persistent young offenders and Intensive Fostering, both of which can be attached to community orders. Intensive fostering is being piloted by the Youth Justice Board in three areas and provides a highly intensive programme for serious and persistent young offenders whose home environment is contributing to their offending behaviour.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 introduces a new generic community sentence for young people, the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO). The YRO is designed to increase the options available to deal with young offenders in the community with effective and tailored interventions. Under the new order intensive supervision and surveillance and intensive fostering are set out as specific alternatives to custody.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of offences in each police force area under each relevant section of (A) the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, (B) the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, (C) the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (D) the Pet Animals Act 1951, (E) the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (F) the Deer Act 1991 in each year since 1997. [212358]

Maria Eagle: I am placing in the House Library the information requested, for the period 1997 to 2006, on the number of males and females in each age group proceeded against and found guilty of offences in each police force area under each relevant section of the following Acts;

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and the Deer Act 1991.

Information on the number of prosecutions under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 is not identified separately by the Ministry of Justice.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Crime: Victim Support Services

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to provide a comprehensive range of support services for victims of crime as set out in Rebuilding Lives—Supporting the Victims of Crime since the publication of that document. [213180]

Maria Eagle: Since the publication of Rebuilding Lives—Supporting Victims of Crime, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has piloted victim care units in three areas with the national charity Victim Support. Following the success of these pilots, OCJR has invested in Victim Support to rollout Victim Support Plus across England and Wales (£5.6 million in 2007-08 and £7 million in 2008-09).

Victim Support Plus expands and improves the way in which support services are accessed by victims. It introduces a process of support that means victims receive a telephone call from a victim care officer to assess their needs within 48 hours of referral from the police. It makes support services to victims easier to access, more consistent and practical, and tailored to victims' needs—so the right services can be provided to victims who need them, when they need them.

Crimes of Violence: Convictions

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* violence against the person in Crown courts in England and Wales since 1997 broken down by (i) year and (ii) age of defendant. [212128]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* violence against the person in Crown courts in England and Wales since 1997 broken down by (i) year and (ii) age of defendant can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants found guilty at Crown courts, for offences relating to murder, rape, and violence against the person, by age groups, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Murder		*Rape*		*Violence against the person*	
	10-17	*18 and over*	*10-17*	*18 and over*	*10-17*	*18 and over*
1997	26	249	47	467	619	12,034
1998	10	246	23	547	623	11,165
1999	24	228	40	517	591	10,610
2000[4]	20	241	34	481	661	10,930
2001	27	258	33	458	608	11,468
2002	20	304	23	525	696	12,432
2003	9	268	26	556	569	12,826
2004	13	348	27	614	607	13,001
2005	26	368	66	619	565	13,245
2006	19	353	63	683	526	13,418

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions, or offences comprising:

Common Law. Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 1, 9, 10
Murder of persons aged one year or over.
Murder of infants under one year of age.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Rape of a male aged 16 or over.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male
Violence against the person includes:
Murder
Attempted Murder
Manslaughter, etc
Aggravated vehicle taking
Wounding or other act endangering life
Endangering railway passenger
Endangering life at sea
Other wounding etc.
Cruelty or neglect of children
Abandoning children under two years
Child abduction
Procuring illegal abortion
Concealment of birth

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a nine per cent. sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data and to contribute to national totals, these data are not robust at a detailed level and are not included in this analysis.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on Ministerial policy advisers, to which former special advisers his Department has *(a)* granted and *(b)* withheld approval to take up an outside appointment on leaving post since May 2005. [211105]

Mr. Wills: I refer to the answer given on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1190-91W, by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband).

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many permanent staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are not assigned to a permanent post. [211111]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, bringing together the Department for

Constitutional Affairs, Her Majesty's Court service and Associated Offices, the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The Ministry of Justice and its agencies cannot provide information on the number of permanent staff who are not assigned to a permanent post. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which public sector organisations have notified data security breaches to the Information Commissioner since November 2007. [210958]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is an independent body created by statute. One of their responsibilities is the handling of complaints made under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). The ICO has provided the answer to this question.

The Commissioner encourages organisations to report serious data breaches to his Office, although there is no legal obligation on them to do so. Because of the subjective criteria used by organisations when deciding whether to notify, the severity and impact of the breaches vary.

As notification of breaches is voluntary and to protect the confidentiality of the information provided, the Information Commissioner does not disclose details of individual breaches. However, he has broken down the number of notifications as:

	Notifications since November 2007
Private sector	41
Local government	17
Central Government	30
Other public sector organisations	50
Total	138

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212478]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has in place formal arrangements that recognise the following trade unions and employee representative bodies:

FDA
General Municipal Boilers (GMB)
National Association of Probation Officers (NAPO)
Prospect
Prison Officers Association (POA)
Prison Governors' Association (PGA)
Public and Commercial Services (PCS)
Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
Unite (includes TGWU/Amicus)
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT)

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for driving under the influence of drugs have related to the use of khat in the last five years. [212030]

Maria Eagle: The Court Proceedings Database held by my Department holds data on both drink and drug driving offences. However, prosecutions for these offences separately cannot be accurately established and from the data held the type of drug cannot be identified.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was imposed on convicted offenders in magistrates courts in the county of Surrey in respect of the victim's surcharge since its inception; how much of this sum has been collected; and what awards from the Victim's Surcharge Fund have been made in Surrey, broken down by recipient. [213255]

Maria Eagle: This information is not available in the exact form requested, we will collect relevant information and write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Hollesley Bay Prison: Training

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the adequacy of the systems in place at Hollesley Bay Prison intended to prevent those on training schemes from *(a)* accessing drugs and alcohol and *(b)* using their work time for social activities. [209875]

Maria Eagle: Adequate systems are in place at Hollesley Bay Prison to prevent those on training schemes from accessing drugs and alcohol and using their work time for social activities. The prison has searching systems, measures to detect alcohol and drugs and undertakes random site checks. It maintains close communications with employers and the Suffolk constabulary.

Prisoners who work in the leisure and hotel industry are occasionally permitted to use facilities on site. Such activities should not interfere with their need to deliver a full day's work to the satisfaction of their employer.

Absconds are at their lowest level for 10 years. Despite this fact it is inevitable that there will be temporary release failures and absconds. Open prisons have a range of options for dealing with absconds and license failures from loss of privileges and further release opportunities through to returning prisoners to closed conditions and prosecution by the police.

Judges: Disqualification

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges have been removed from the bench following an investigation by the Office for Judicial Complaints since April 2006. [212169]

Mr. Straw: The Office for Judicial Complaints has responsibility for managing the procedures that enable the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice to reach decisions to remove judicial office holders. That term comprises magistrates, coroners, and fee paid and full-time judiciary who sit in the tribunals, the Crown and county courts and above. Since April 2006 to date, 37 judicial office holders have been removed from office following investigations carried out in accordance with the Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations 2006, the Judicial Complaints (Tribunals) Rules 2006 and the Judicial Complaints (Magistrates) Rules 2006. Information about judicial disciplinary decisions is published in the Office for Judicial Complaints' annual report which can be accessed on:

www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued since October 2007 and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [212359]

Bridget Prentice: Since October 2007 the Lord Chancellor has laid the Mental Capacity Act 2005: Deprivation of liberty safeguards—Code of Practice to supplement the main Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice before Parliament in draft on 13 June 2008. This relates to the deprivation of liberty provisions introduced into the Mental Capacity Act 2005 by the Mental Health Act 2007.

Two pieces of secondary legislation have also been laid before Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) in relation to the deprivation of liberty provisions:

> The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Standard Authorisations, Assessments and Ordinary Residence) Regulations 2008 were laid before Parliament in draft on 20 May 2008 to be approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
>
> SI 2008 No. 1315, The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Appointment of Relevant Person's Representative) Regulations 2008 was laid before Parliament on 20 May 2008 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

The OPG continues to publish a range of forms, guidance and other information to support the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and has amended those forms and guidance as necessary since October 2007. The following table provides a summary of the current forms, guidance and newsletters produced by the Office of the Public Guardian to support the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The summary indicates where amendments to the forms or guidance have been made since October 2007.

The Office of the Public Guardian's Annual Report and Accounts October 2007 to March 2008 (including the Public Guardian's report as required by Section 60 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005) is due to be published prior to the summer recess.

The Office of the Public Guardian plans to review the operation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 later this year. As a result of this formal evaluation and other business improvement initiatives, further secondary legislation, information or guidance may be prepared and brought forward.

	Forms, guidance and supporting documentation produced by the Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection
EP1PG	Notice of intention to apply for registration of an enduring power of attorney
EP2PG	Application for Registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney
EP2PG Notes	Guidance Notes for completing the application form EP2PG
EPA101	Guidance about Enduring Powers of Attorney and their use Amended January 2008
LPAPA	Lasting Power of Attorney Property and Affairs
LPAPA Notes	Notes for completing an LPA—Property and Affairs
LPAPW	Lasting Power of Attorney Personal Welfare
LPAPW Notes	Notes for completing an LPA—Personal Welfare
LPA001	Notice of intention to apply for registration of a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA002	Application to register a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA002 Notes	Application to register a Lasting Power of Attorney Guidance Notes for completing the application form LPA2
LPA005	Disclaimer by a proposed or acting attorney under a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA006	Objection by the donor to the registration of a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA007	Objection to the Office of the Public Guardian of a proposed registration of a Lasting Power of Attorney on factual grounds
LPA008	Notice to the Office of the Public Guardian of an application to object to registration of a Lasting Power of Attorney made to the Court of Protection
LPA102	A guide for people who want to make a Personal Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)
LPA103	A guide for people who want to make a Property and Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA104	A guide for people taking on the role of personal welfare attorney under a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA105	A guide for people taking on the role of property and affairs attorney under a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA107	A guide for Certificate Providers and Witnesses
LPA108	A guide to registering a Lasting Power of Attorney
LPA109	Office of the Public Guardian Registers—Register of Lasting Powers of Attorney, Register of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Register of Court orders appointing Deputies
OPG102	Deputyship Report. Amended December 2007
OPG502	OPG and Court: Who we are and what we do
OPG503	OPG and COP Service standards

	Forms, guidance and supporting documentation produced by the Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection
OPG505	Putting things right A guide on how to complain. Amended April 2008
OPG505A	Complaint Form
OPG506	Court of Protection and Office of the Public Guardian Fees, exemptions and remissions. Amended April 2008
OPG506A	Application for a fee exemption or remission. Amended April 2008 and May 2008
OPG507	A guide to supervision for Deputies
COP1	Application
COP1A	Annex A: Supporting information for property and affairs applications
COP1B	Annex B: Supporting information for health and welfare applications
COP2	Permission
COP003	Assessment of capacity
COP4	Deputy's declaration
COP5	Acknowledgement of service / notification
COP7	Application to object to the registration of a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)
COP8	Application relating to the registration of an enduring power of attorney (EPA)
COP9	Application notice
COP10	Application notice for applications to be joined as a party
COP12	Special undertaking by trustees
COP14	Proceedings about you in the Court of Protection
COP14A	Guidance notes on completing form COP14
COP15	Notice that an application form has been issued
COP15A	Guidance notes for completing form COP15
COP17	Request for directions relating to an objection to the registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)
COP20	Certificate of service / non-service. Certificate of notification / non-notification
COP22	Certificate of suitability of litigation friend
COP23	Certificate of failure or refusal of witness to attend before an examiner
COP24	Witness statement
COP25	Affidavit
COP29	Notice of hearing for committal order
COP30	Notice of change of solicitor
COP31	Notice of intention to file evidence by deposition
COP28	Notice of hearing
COP35	Appellants notice
COP36	Respondents notice
COP37	Skeleton Argument
COP42	Making an application to the Court of Protection
COP43	A guide for Deputies appointed by the Court of Protection
Booklets and general information about the Act	
OPG601	Making decisions about your health, welfare or finances. Who decides when you can't?
OPG602	Making decisions. A guide for family, friends and other unpaid carers
OPG603	Making decisions. A guide for people who work in health and social care
OPG604	Making decisions. A guide for advice workers
OPG605	Making decisions. An Easy Read guide
OPG606	Making decisions. The Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service
	Health, welfare and finances who decides if you can't?
	Summary of Mental Capacity Act
	"3 Stories" a short film to raise awareness of the Act
Additional OPG documents	
	OPG Framework Document
	OPG Business Plan 2008-09
	PGO Annual Report and Accounts April-September 2007
Newsletters	
MCA Update	From July 2005 the MCA Update newsletter has been sent electronically, on a regular basis, to a wide range of stakeholders keeping them informed with progress implementing the new Act. The newsletter is made available in both standard and "easy read" formats, and continues to be sent.

	Forms, guidance and supporting documentation produced by the Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection
Reaching Out	Since August 2005, the Public Guardianship Office's (now Office of the Public Guardian) customer newsletter, Reaching Out, which was usually issued three times a year, has included information about the Mental Capacity Act and how it might affect existing customers. The final issue was issued in October 2007
OPG In Touch	The OPG's new customer newsletter replaced Reaching Out from February 2008. This continues to be issued three times a year, and will continue to provide information to existing customers

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many additional hours of duty police officers undertook in each police authority area to implement Operation Safeguard in each of the last 24 months. [202508]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard is an arrangement between the National Offender Management Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The estimated cost to NOMS of the provision of police cells under Operation Safeguard in 2007-08 is in the region of £53 million. This includes staff costs. The number of additional hours worked by police officers is an operational matter for police authorities and chief officers and the information is not held centrally.

Prisoners Release

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders not yet returned to prison after recall of their end of custody licence had been recalled for *(a)* alleged re-offending, *(b)* failure to live at an approved address, *(c)* failure to maintain contact with the Probation Service and *(d)* poor behaviour. [213338]

Mr. Straw: 894 offenders placed on End of Custody Licence have been recalled to custody for breaching the conditions of the scheme as at 16 May 2008. This represents 3.4 per cent. of those released on to the scheme. Data on ECL release and recall which have been published monthly since the scheme began, can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Of those recalled and who remained unlawfully at large as of 19 June, 24 were recalled for alleged re-offending (six of whom had also failed to live at their approved address); 31 were recalled for failure to live at an approved address (four of whom had also failed to maintain contact with the Probation Service); 46 were recalled for failure to maintain contact with the Probation Service (three of whom also had poor behaviour); and eight were recalled for poor behaviour.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 647W, on prisoners' release: re-offenders, how many of the alleged further offences committed by offenders on end of custody licence were *(a)* rape, *(b)* attempted rape and *(c)* other sexual offences. [213342]

Mr. Straw: Four offenders have allegedly committed six sexual offences while they were subject to the end of custody licence, of which one was rape, five were other sexual offences. There were no attempted rapes.

Prisoners: British Nationality

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many UK nationals have been repatriated to finish their sentences in UK prisons in the last three years. [213042]

Mr. Hanson: Between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007, 172 British nationals convicted of offences committed abroad were returned to prisons in England and Wales to continue serving their sentences. The annual break down of transfers in the last three years is as follows.

	Number
2005	61
2006	43
2007	68

The repatriation of prisoners to Scotland and to Northern Ireland is a matter for the Scottish Government and for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the report of the review of restraint of young people in the secure estate. [213256]

Mr. Hanson: I am pleased to announce that the chairs of the independent review of restraint in juvenile secure settings, Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge, reported their recommendations to my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes) and I on 20 June.

We welcome their report and will give its recommendations careful consideration. We intend to publish the chairs' full report alongside our response to its recommendations by the end of October.

Sentencing

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 10, (b) 10 to 17, (c) 18 to 20 and *(d)* 21 and over were sentenced to immediate custody for (i) violent and (ii) non-violent crimes in each of the last five years. [212376]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody for violent and non-violent offences by age group, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

		Number of persons
Age group	*Violent offences[2]*	*Non-violent offences[3]*
2002		
Juveniles (10-17)	2,526	4,890
Young adults (18 -20)	3,652	13,711
Adults (21 and over)	14,057	72,771
Total	20,235	91,372
2003		
Juveniles (10-17)	1,982	4,218
Young adults (18 -20)	3,353	12,085
Adults (21 and over)	13,788	72,244
Total	19,123	88,547
2004		
Juveniles (10-17)	2,154	4,171
Young adults (18-20)	3,530	11,106
Adults (21 and over)	14,494	70,867
Total	20,178	86,144
2005		
Juveniles (10-17)	2,159	3,856
Young adults (18-20)	3,746	10,485
Adults (21 and over)	14,045	66,945
Total	19,950	81,286
2006		
Juveniles (10-17)	2,351	3,832
Young adults (18-20)	3,853	10,044
Adults (21 and over)	13,760	62,177
Total	19,964	76,053
Total all years	79,500	423,402

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Violent offences includes the offences of violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences.

[3] Non-violent offences includes the offences of burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, fraud and forgery, drugs offences and all other summary and indictable offences.

Note

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source

OMS, Analytical Services

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Carers: Young People

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of young people in London with caring responsibilities for family members. [212622]

Kevin Brennan: We estimate that there are around 20,500 young carers in London. This estimate is derived from analysis of the data in the 2001 census, which is the most recent information that we have on the number of young carers in England and Wales.

Class Sizes: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wirral West constituency in (i) January 1997 and (ii) January 1998. [212328]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the pupil-teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Wirral West constituency and England, January 1997, 1998 and 2007.

Pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools—Years: January 1997, 1998 and 2007. Coverage: Wirral West and England

	1997		*1998*		*2007*	
	Wirral West	*England*	*Wirral West*	*England*	*Wirral West*	*England*
Primary	23.8	23.4	24.8	23.7	22.6	21.8

Pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools Years: January 1997, 1998 and 2007, Coverage: Wirral West and England

	1997		1998		2007	
	Wirral West	*England*	*Wirral West*	*England*	*Wirral West*	*England*
Secondary	16.6	16.7	16.7	16.9	14.9	16.5

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:

School Census

Classroom Assistants: Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants are employed in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Bournemouth. [212463]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Bournemouth local authority and England, January 2007, the latest figures available.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools[1], Years: January 2007, Coverage: Bournemouth local authority and England

	Bournemouth	*England*
Nursery/primary	340	105,770
Secondary	80	35,650

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Grandparents

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has estimated the number of young people cared for by grandparents. [212621]

Kevin Brennan: The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents collects information on the types of child care families had used, including informal provision such as care by grandparents. The 2007 survey estimated that 25 per cent. of families had used grandparents to provide child care in the week before the survey, compared with 26 per cent. in 2004 (this change was not statistically significant).

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 452W, on grandparents, what research the Government have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on grandparental access to grandchildren in the last 10 years; if he will take steps to commission research on the role of parents in governing grandparent-grandchild relations; and if he will make a statement. [212676]

Kevin Brennan: We have not commissioned or evaluated any research on grandparental access to grandchildren in the last 10 years, and we have no immediate plans to commission research on the role of parents in governing grandparent/grandchild relations. We believe that parents are usually best placed to make decisions about their children's relationships with grandparents and other relatives. However, with leave of the court, it is possible for grandparents to apply for a contact order under section 8 of the Children Act 1989, to enable them to maintain a relationship with their grandchildren.

Higher Education: Scholarships

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary school pupils there were who received scholarships for higher education in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds, West constituency in each year since 2000. [209739]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary schools in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London were classed as (i) persistent and (ii) non-persistent absentees in the most recent period for which figures are available. [212624]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain records of "truancy", as authorised absence rates include lateness and unauthorised holidays during term time.

The available information relates to pupil enrolments classed as persistent absentees (pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance) and is given in the table.

State funded secondary schools[1] [2] Pupil absence 2006-07

	Number of enrolments who are classed as persistent absentees[3]	*Percentage of enrolments who are classed as persistent absentees[4]*
London Government office region	395,150	6.3
Bexley local authority area	17,268	6.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges.

[3] Number of enrolments in schools between from start of the school year until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[4] A persistent absentee is defined as missing more than 63 sessions in the year typically, missing more than 20 per cent of the school year. Pupils can be absent for a range of reasons, including illness and family holiday

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Health

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* levels of obesity and *(b)* general health of schoolchildren in England in each of the last three years. [211350]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1666W.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 535W, on school meals, whether his Department remains committed to the minimum spend on ingredients announced by his Department in press notice 2005-0044 on 30 March 2005; and if he will make a statement. [212647]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given previously for question numbers 202636 and 202637 posed in April 2008. The figures included in the press notice referred to by the hon. Member were a suggestion for the amount that might be needed to be spent on ingredients to deliver a tasty and nutritious meal. Subsequent research found that the vast majority of local authorities were already spending this. The latest figures will be announced by the School Food Trust when it publishes the results of its 2008 annual survey in July.

The nutritional standards for school food make sure provision is consistent across maintained primary and secondary schools.

Schools: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will visit schools in the London Borough of Bexley to discuss funding. [212620]

Jim Knight: DCSF Ministers receive many invitations to visit schools across the country to discuss their individual circumstances and issues. It is not possible to accept all of these, but Ministers do look carefully at the issues in question and other diary commitments when considering each invitation. I therefore invite the hon. Member to contact my office with details of the proposed visit and the issues he would like to discuss, so that I can properly consider his suggestion.

Schools: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average grant per child for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Bournemouth is in 2008-09. [212461]

Jim Knight: The dedicated schools grant (DSG) guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for 2008-09 for Bournemouth local authority is £3,820. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil, a primary/secondary split is not available; this figure covers all funded pupils aged three to 15 and is in cash terms (rounded to the nearest £10). This figure covers funding through the DSG only and so does not represent the totality of 'education' funding; there is also funding from the Learning and Skills Council and other grants that support the schools budget where allocations have not yet been finalised for 2008-09.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of places in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Bournemouth which are surplus. [212462]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places via an annual survey. The most recent data available were collected in January 2007 when Bournemouth had 1,389 spare primary school places, representing 12 per cent. of total primary capacity, and 778 spare secondary school places, representing 8 per cent. of total secondary capacity.

Schools: Buildings

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the quality of school buildings was assessed in Ofsted inspections conducted in the last five years. [211164]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 376W.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances school forums may award per pupil funding increases of below the minimum funding guarantee; and if he will make a statement. [212236]

Jim Knight: A schools forum may approve variations to the minimum funding guarantee proposed by the local authority that together affect no more than 50 per cent. of pupils in the authority's schools. The purpose of this provision is to allow local authorities and their schools forums to handle anomalies that may arise from the operation of the minimum funding guarantee, since the rules set down in the regulations are unable to cover all local circumstances.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many active schools co-ordinators were operating in schools in the most recent period for which figures are available. [212981]

Jim Knight: Active schools co-ordinators exist only in Scotland. Information for Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Secondary Education: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to set an improvement target for Nottingham North secondary schools within a local area agreement indicator. [212190]

Jim Knight: Local area agreements are due to be in place across the country by the end of June 2008. Government have not negotiated any secondary school targets in Nottingham's LAA, but may seek to do so at the first LAA annual refresh and review if the authority's plans for addressing the National Challenge floor target are not sufficiently robust, or other performance issues arise. Nottingham can, of course, include locally determined targets in their LAA to address secondary school performance at any time, without the need to consult or inform Government.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools *(a)* have been placed in special measures, *(b)* have been issued notices to improve and *(c)* have had at least 30 per cent. of students achieving five good GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [211673]

Jim Knight: In 2007, Ofsted placed 29 secondary schools in special measures. A further 64 were judged to require significant improvement and were given a notice to improve. The following table shows the number of schools placed in an Ofsted category and the number of schools within a category that had at least 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five good GCSEs or equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths:

Schools placed in Ofsted inadequate categories from 1 January to 31 December 2007

Ofsted category	*Number of secondary schools placed in an Ofsted category during 2007*[1]	*Number of these schools in which 30 per cent. or more of 15-year-old pupils achieved five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*
Special measures	29	10
Significant improvement (Notice to Improve)	64	30

[1] The figures in the table do not include the 12 middle deemed secondary schools that were placed into these categories as they have no pupils at Key Stage 4. Two schools that closed in August 2007 are also not included as their results were not published.

Although some schools placed in an Ofsted category achieve above 30 per cent., a number of these schools may be "coasting", where reasonable numbers of pupils achieve five or more good GCSEs including English and maths, but progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 is unimpressive, or be in danger of falling below the floor target.

These are factors that Ofsted will take into account when assessing school performance. Ofsted are currently consulting on new inspection arrangements which include a proposal that schools that are coasting, have inconsistent performance or are slipping will be identified quickly and inspected more frequently.

In 2007, 2,407 maintained secondary schools had 30 per cent. or more of 15-year-old pupils achieving at least five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths.

Special Educational Needs: Dyslexia

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will estimate the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools without any teachers with a specialist dyslexia qualification; and if he will make a statement; [211022]

(2) how many teachers in maintained schools have a specialist dyslexia qualification; and if he will make a statement. [211023]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally. However, on 6 May the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced we have asked Sir Jim Rose to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia. We expect to consider his recommendations early next year.

Some information about teachers' qualifications will be gathered by the school workforce census which will start in 2010. The information collected will be limited to ensure we do not place an undue burden on schools. So, although it will not collect information about all training, we expect to be able to provide more data than we currently hold on teacher's qualifications.

The census will be seeking data on relevant qualifications for all teachers. A relevant qualification is any post A-level qualification that the school considers qualifies the teacher or teaching assistant to teach the subjects for which they are timetabled. We expect to see included, as a minimum, teachers' ITT qualifications. For teachers with a PGCE, we are also requesting data on prior degrees. Qualification subject will be coded using the Joint Academic Council principal subjects code set which includes "Training Teachers – Special Needs".

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools and colleges are permitted to conduct selection interviews with pupils before accepting them on to a diploma course; and if he will make a statement. [207504]

Jim Knight: With regard to schools, legislation prohibits the interviewing of children or parents to determine admission to a maintained school (except where an interview is used solely to assess the suitability of an applicant for a boarding place). This includes admission to the school at year 12. However meetings can be held to provide advice on options and entry requirements for particular courses, both for new applicants to the school, and for those transferring within the school from year 11 to year 12.

As independent bodies, colleges are responsible for determining their own mission and managing their own affairs. This includes managing their own assets; being responsible for the employment of their staff; and setting their own policies and admissions criteria.

Our prime concern is that every young person is able to access the programme of learning that is best suited to their abilities and aspirations. Diplomas are an important part of ensuring the right choices are available to young people. The decision over whether a young person takes a diploma will be driven by what the young person wants to do, and what is in the best interests of that young person. The introduction of diplomas does not change the existing arrangements for admissions either to schools or colleges. It is a longstanding and common practice for both schools and colleges to have meetings with their students to advise them and help them choose the right courses of study for their needs. This is separate from admissions.

Swimming: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued to education authorities on the funding of school swimming pools in the last five years. [212082]

Jim Knight: No guidance specifically on the capital funding of school swimming pools has been issued to local education authorities by this Department in the last five years. There are no barriers to schools or authorities using schools capital funding for capital maintenance of existing pools, or to construct new ones where this is their local priority.

In our non-statutory area guidelines for schools, Building Bulletin 98, "Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects" (2004), indoor swimming pools fall into the category of supplementary net area which is not included where the Department uses these guidelines as a funding model, for instance for Building Schools for the Future. Our guidance suggests that swimming pools will therefore normally need other sources of funding, such as local authority leisure service, Lottery or Department of Culture Media and Sport funding.

This guidance is repeated in "Inspirational Design for PE and Sports Spaces" (2005). We also counsel that pools should be cost efficient to allow the facility to be managed with sustainable operating costs. These publications are available in the parliamentary Libraries.

Teachers: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in England were the victims of *(a)* assault and *(b)* sexual assault in the course of or in relation to their duties in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [211343]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of assaults towards staff in schools is not collected centrally. My Department does collect information on the reasons why pupils have been excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. This includes a category for "physical assault against an adult" although this is not broken down by category of assault.

Local authority and region level tables for the last three years showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason have been placed in the Library. For 2005/06 this information is only available for secondary schools due to underlying changes in the data collection. For 2006/07 this coverage will extend to also include primary and special schools.

Exclusions data relating to 2006/07 are expected to be available at the end of June 2008.

Teachers: Recruitment

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the areas of the country facing difficulties in recruiting teachers; and what the reasons are for such difficulties. [211223]

Jim Knight: Information collected by the Department relates to full-time vacancy rates. These figures are published in table 7 of the Statistical First Release on School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2008 (provisional), accessible through:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

and in table 20 of the Statistical First Release on School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised), accessible through:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Overall vacancy rates have decreased since 2002. There is no national shortage of teachers and the overall gap between the demand and supply of teachers continues to close. There are 441,200 full-time equivalent teachers in maintained schools—1,900 more than last year; 176,900 full-time equivalent teaching assistants—13,100 more than last year and 149,500 full-time equivalent administrative staff, technicians and other support staff—up 5,000 on last year. The pupil-teacher ratio has fallen in primaries from 21.8 pupils for every teacher to 21.6 and in secondary schools from 16.5 to 16.1.

Teachers: Resignations

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned on reasons for teachers leaving the profession within a few years of qualification; and if he will make a statement. [211224]

Jim Knight: The Department has commissioned a six-year longitudinal study of teachers' experiences of initial teacher training and early professional development. The project, "Becoming a Teacher", started in 2003 with a sample of trainees in their final year of initial teacher training and is ongoing as it follows them through their early career. Ninety-one per cent. of survey respondents who were currently teaching or planning to be in teaching in the following term indicated that they expected to still be in teaching in four years' time. At the time of the survey there were 106 participants who had worked as a teacher since completing their training but were not now working as a teacher and were not looking for a teaching post. Reasons cited included being unable to find a job, behaviour of pupils/pupil discipline, deciding to move into another career, family reasons/commitments and workload. However, over half the respondents anticipated returning to teaching in the future.

This area has been researched extensively, and the Department has also commissioned a series of reports by Smithers and Robinson, published in 2003, 2004, 2005 to investigate teacher turnover, wastage and destinations.

It should be noted that many teachers return to service after a break. In 2005-06, the latest year for which figures are available, around 10,000 qualified teachers returned to service in the maintained sector (all school types) after a break of at least one year.

Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of classes in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were set by ability at the most recent date for which figures are available. [210072]

Jim Knight: As stated in the responses to the hon. Gentlemen's parliamentary questions 202069 and 202073 (April 2008), data on how many lessons in England are set by ability are not currently collected. The latest period for which Ofsted data indicate the proportion of lessons in each school year which are set by ability is 2002-03.

The figures for the percentage of secondary lessons set, as observed by Ofsted, in 2002-03 were included in our reply to parliamentary question 202073. The figures for primary lessons are outlined in the following table.

Lessons in primary schools observed by Ofsted during inspections in 2002-03—percentage set by ability

Percentage

	Class formed on the basis of prior attainment in the subject (setted)
Year 1	2
Year 2	4
Key stage 1	3
Year 3	7
Year 4	7
Year 5	9
Year 6	12
Key stage 2	9

The figures in the table have been provided by Ofsted, which is responsible for the inspection and regulation of care for children and young people, and the inspection of education and training for learners of all ages.

Truancy: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary education in *(a)* Cleethorpes, *(b)* Great Grimsby, *(c)* North East Lincolnshire and *(d)* North Lincolnshire were classed as persistent truants in the most recent period for which figures are available. [211845]

Jim Knight: The available information relates to persistent absentees (pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance) and is given in the table.

State funded secondary schools[1] [2]: Pupil absence 2006-07

	Number of enrolments[3]	*Percentage of persistent absentees[4]*
North East Lincolnshire local authority area	11,213	7.2
North Lincolnshire local authority area	10,709	6.4
Cleethorpes constituency	7,447	6.6
Great Grimsby constituency	4,701	8.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges.

[3] Number of enrolments in schools between from start of the school year until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

[4] A persistent absentee is defined as missing more than 63 sessions in the year typically, missing more than 20 per cent. of the school year.

Source:

School Census.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationality: Prisoners

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are in prisons outside the UK. [213041]

Meg Munn: As of 31 March 2008, our consular officials were aware of 2,208 British nationals detained overseas. This figure includes those awaiting trial and those serving custodial sentences.

Burma: Human Rights

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Thai government's influence over the government of Burma on human rights; and what plans he has to make progress on alternative means of persuading the Burmese regime to take account of human rights. [212263]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I both met Thai Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama on 2 June and encouraged the Thai government to bring its influence to bear to support democracy, human rights and an improved quality of life for the people of Burma. Thailand and Burma share a 2,400 kilometre border and strong economic links and Thailand is home to an estimated 2 million Burmese migrants and 140,000 refugees. Both countries are members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Thailand is therefore in a key position to influence the government of Burma.

The human rights situation in Burma is of grave concern to both the UK and the wider international community. We have consistently used all available channels to highlight the dire situation in Burma. This has included engagement with civil society, bilateral action, multilateral action in the UN (including its Human Rights Council) and sustained dialogue and lobbying of all those who may have influence over the Burmese government. In discussions with ASEAN member countries, we have emphasised the leading role they have to play in supporting reform in their fellow member state.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with their French counterparts on the French EU Presidency's programme for the mid-term review of the Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will make a statement. [211274]

David Miliband: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I, as well as officials at our Embassy in Paris, and at the UK Representation in Brussels and across our European network, are in regular contact with our French interlocutors on a full range of issues.

We support the French presidency's work to conclude the Common Agricultural Policy Health Check by the end of the year. We will be seeking an ambitious outcome which cuts market distortion, reduces the burden on farmers and brings greater environmental benefits.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the possible effects of foreign exchange movements on his Department's budget; and if he will make a statement. [212037]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently contracted, through the Bank of England, the forward purchase of 80 per cent. of our forecast net euro and US dollar exposure to the end of the current financial year, providing us with budgetary certainty on this substantial proportion of our budget.

We are looking to identify options for future forward purchases for the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period 2009-10 and 2010-11—including for other currencies.

EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with their French counterparts on the French EU presidency's programme for European security and defence policy; and if he will make a statement. [211273]

David Miliband: Ministers and officials have regular contact with their French counterparts to discuss a range of EU issues, including French plans for their presidency of the EU.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK put forward proposals on strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency at the 28 April to 9 May Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Second Session; and if he will make a statement. [210484]

David Miliband: At the recent Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee, the UK called for universal adoption of integrated safeguards which would make a major contribution to strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards regime and, with EU partners, for as many states as possible to ratify the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The UK also urged a leading role for the IAEA in the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and, along with P5 partners, called for Iran to implement fully its IAEA obligations.

Iran: Baha'i Community

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will condemn publicly the recent arrests of members of the Baha'i community in Iran; and whether his Department has attempted to establish the whereabouts of those detained. [212085]

Meg Munn: The Government remain deeply concerned that the seven leading members of Iran's Baha'i community are still detained following their arrest over a month ago. The individuals were held incommunicado for a number of weeks but we have recently received confirmation, from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the UK, that most of the group are now known to be in Evin Prison in Tehran. We understand that further arrests of Baha'is have since taken place in Esfahan and Ghaemshahr.

The Government are committed to raising human rights concerns with the Iranian authorities and regularly raise concerns about the ongoing persecution of Iranian Baha'is, both bilaterally and through the EU. On 21 May the EU, with strong UK support, issued a public statement of concern calling for the release of these individuals and an end to the persecution of the Baha'i community. We have also publicly and consistently expressed our concerns about the situation of the Baha'is in Parliament.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions the European Union member states have agreed to impose if Iran does not accept the refreshed package of incentives to be presented to it. [212043]

David Miliband: The UK continues to work closely with international partners, including the EU, to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue. We expect further EU sanctions shortly, but it would not be appropriate to disclose at this stage the details of any further measures that may be applied to Iran.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Iraq on the situation of Iraqi Christians resident in Iraq. [210452]

David Miliband: Our diplomatic missions in Iraq and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq regularly raise the need for adequate protection of minority groups with the Government of Iraq. The key to improving the position of vulnerable or minority groups is political reconciliation and further reduction in the violence which is affecting all sectors of Iraqi society. Although we do not support the use of the death penalty, we are encouraged by the recent conviction of the killer of Archbishop Rahho of Mosul as an example of Iraqi commitment to tackling those responsible for violence against minority groups.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the expiration in December 2008 of the UN mandate for the international coalition in Iraq (UNSCR 1790 (2007)) on the activities of British armed forces in Iraq; what his policy is on the expiration of the mandate; and if he will make a statement. [210447]

David Miliband: UK forces have a clear mission to fulfil in southern Iraq, focused on the mentoring and training of 14 (Iraqi Army) Division in Basra until it is fully operational. Final decisions on our military plans and presence in Iraq in 2009 have not yet been taken, but will be based on conditions in Iraq.

We are in discussion with coalition partners and the government of Iraq over our legal requirements following the anticipated expiry of the UN Security Council mandate at the end of 2008, with a view to ensuring that our military (and civilian) assistance to Iraq remains on a sound legal footing.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the mandate for the international coalition in Iraq has been reviewed in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790 (2007). [210516]

David Miliband: The UN Security Council reviewed the mandate of the Multinational Force-Iraq (MNF-I) on 13 June. Members of the Security Council agreed upon the continuation of the MNF-I mandate and of the arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board for Iraq, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1790 (2007).

Kosovo: International Cooperation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of co-operation between the European Union, the United Nations and NATO in Kosovo. [212056]

David Miliband: The EU, UN and NATO continue to work together closely to achieve their shared goal: a stable, prosperous and multi-ethnic Kosovo and wider Balkan region. All relevant players have consulted closely on the arrangements for the reconfiguration of international presences in Kosovo set out in the report of the UN Secretary-General to the UN Security Council of 12 June.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in defining the respective competences of the EU's EULEX mission in Kosovo and the UN's UNMIK mission. [212055]

David Miliband: The UN Secretary-General's report on the UN Mission in Kosovo of 12 June, envisages that the EU Rule of Law mission will perform an enhanced operational role in the area of rule of law under the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and the overall authority of the UN. The EU will gradually assume increasing operational responsibility in the areas of international policing, justice, and customs throughout Kosovo.

The UN presence will be reconfigured to carry out the following functions, among others yet to be defined: monitoring and reporting; facilitating, where necessary and possible, arrangements for Kosovo's engagement in international agreements; facilitating dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade on issues of practical concern; and functions related to a proposed dialogue with the government in Belgrade on the issues of police, courts, customs, transportation and infrastructure, boundaries and Serbian patrimony.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress made in the deployment of the EULEX mission to Kosovo. [212057]

David Miliband: The EU Rule of Law mission is in the process of deploying throughout Kosovo. It will gradually take up its responsibilities over the summer, in coordination with the UN Mission in Kosovo and the other international presences.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the United Nations Mission in Kosovo will assume following the coming into force of Kosovo's constitution on 15th June. [212058]

David Miliband: The UN Secretary-General's report on the UN Mission in Kosovo of 12 June envisaged that, following the entry into force of Kosovo's Constitution, the UN presence in Kosovo would be reconfigured to carry out the following functions, among others to be fully defined: monitoring and reporting; facilitating, where necessary and possible, arrangements for Kosovo's engagement in international agreements; facilitating dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade on issues of practical concern; and functions related to a proposed dialogue with the government in Belgrade on the issues of police, courts, customs, transportation and infrastructure, boundaries and Serbian patrimony.

Lebanon: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on official contact with the government of Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [210451]

David Miliband: The UK has contact with the current Government of Lebanon, both at official and ministerial level. During a visit to Lebanon from 8-9 June, I met President Suleiman, Prime Minister Siniora and Speaker Berri.

The Doha Accord of 21 May 2008 called for the formation of a new National Unity Government. We hope that this Government can be appointed swiftly.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received representations from the International Atomic Energy Agency seeking clarification of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's legal status under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and what UK policy is on this matter. [210482]

David Miliband: In Dr. ElBaradei's Introductory Statement to the Board of Governors on 2 June, he asked for guidance from states parties about the status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). We have not received any direct representation from the International Atomic Energy Agency on this point. We continue to regard DPRK as being a state party to the NPT because it has not followed the correct treaty withdrawal procedures.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on further UN Security Council action against the government of Sudan in relation to any further refusal to comply with the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for *(a)* Mr. Ahmad Harun and *(b)* Mr. Ali Kushay; and if he will make a statement. [210480]

David Miliband: The UK sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of March 2005 referred the human rights situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). We have continued to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the ICC requirements, including during the UN Security Council's visit to Sudan this month. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown and I raised the need for Sudan to comply with the ICC in our meetings with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor on 28 April. We have also raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with partners, including in the UN Security Council, who have influence over the Government of Sudan.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with members of the Arab League countries on the compliance of the government of Sudan with arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for Mr. Ahmad Harun and Mr. Ali Kushayb; and if he will make a statement. [210496]

David Miliband: Ministers and officials have had a number of discussions with members of the Arab League to press them to use their influence with the Government of Sudan on a range of issues, including co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

Sudan: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to secure a UN arms embargo on Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [212039]

David Miliband: The UK asked the UN Sanctions Committee of 6 November 2007 to extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all UN Security Council members agreed. Since then, we have raised the issue whenever Sudan has been discussed in the UN Security Council and elsewhere, including at the UN/African Union led talks on Darfur in Geneva on 5 June.

On 12 June 2008 the UK reiterated in the UN Security Council the need for all parties to adhere to the arms embargo on Darfur. We will continue to press for an extension of the arms embargo.

The EU continues to operate an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to promote measures to ensure that crimes committed against peacekeepers and aid workers in Darfur are investigated and prosecuted where appropriate; and if he will make a statement. [210479]

David Miliband: The UN-African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Darfur is there to protect civilians and aid workers. We will continue to support the UN and AU to ensure that crimes committed against peacekeepers and aid workers in Darfur do not go unpunished. We have made clear to all parties to the conflict that there can be no impunity for crimes committed in Darfur.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the role of the Zimbabwean military on the re-run of the presidential elections expected on 27th June; and if he will make a statement. [210529]

David Miliband: We are increasingly concerned about the role of the Zimbabwean military and other security forces in perpetrating violence in the run up to the presidential election on 27 June. For it to be credible, the election needs to take place in a free and fair environment. That is why we are pressing for the deployment of international observers as soon as possible.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EC Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's role and responsibilities are for implementation of the provisions of European Council Directive 76/768 in respect of cosmetic experimentation on animals. [211598]

Meg Hillier: Implementation of the provisions of European Council Directive 76/768 is the responsibility of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. In 1997-98 the Government secured a voluntary ban on the testing of cosmetic finished products and ingredients on animals in the United Kingdom. The ban on the testing of finished products was made compulsory on 11 September 2004, with the implementation of the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where the police officers and other staff announced on 16 April 2008 as being assigned to work on preventing violent extremism, will be deployed. [201880]

Mr. McNulty: Following the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary of more than 300 additional Prevent posts over the next three years, Sir Norman Bettison of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Terrorism and Allied Matters) wrote to all the chief constables in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on 2 May. He set out the proposed distribution and rationale behind funding for the prevention of violent extremism at national, regional and local levels. Priority areas are those localities where there is significant threat of people becoming or supporting terrorists. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary publicly announced the allocation of new posts as part of the launch of the Prevent strategy on 2 June.

In all, 24 forces will benefit from additional resources in 2008-09 and the allocation will be reviewed in November for 2009-10.

Derbyshire
Nottinghamshire
Bedfordshire
Hertfordshire
Humberside
West Yorkshire
Greater Manchester Police
Merseyside
Sussex
Hampshire
Staffordshire
South Wales
Leicestershire
Northamptonshire
Cambridgeshire
Cleveland
Northumbria
South Yorkshire
Lancashire
Surrey
Thames Valley
Avon and Somerset
West Midlands
Metropolitan Police Service

With regard to the deployment of resources, the chief officer of a police force is responsible for operational management. The Home Office is responsible for the provision of funding.

Community Relations: Extremism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which stakeholders will be consulted when deciding which community projects will be given funding from the pledged £12.5 million to help prevent extremism in communities; what the process will be to decide which organisations and projects will be given funding; how the effects of the funding will be assessed; and who will monitor those effects. [210225]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has carried out a cross-Government consultation with all of its key stakeholders including Ministry of Justice and Communities and Local Government. To identify which organisations and projects will be given funding we identified a number of existing organisations who have the relevant skills and knowledge we were looking for. All approved projects are fully evaluated and are also independently reviewed to ensure they have delivered what they set out to do and have provided value for money.

Crimes Against Humanity

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on visits to the UK by individuals under indictment by European or international courts for violations of humanitarian law, *(a)* as part of official delegations and *(b)* as individuals. [212819]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The Government's policy is that the UK should not be a safe haven for individuals who have been involved in, or suspected of involvement in, war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

If individuals indicted by European or international courts applied to visit the UK, we would seek either to refuse them entry in line with that policy, or to comply with any requirements or obligations to assist with their surrender to the courts.

Unionist Parties: Meetings

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a list of meetings she attended with hon. and right hon. Members from the *(a)* Democratic Unionist Party and *(b)* Ulster Unionist Party, including those meetings at which no civil servants were present, between 31 March 2008 and 11 June 2008; and if she will make a statement. [212123]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 June 2008]:* Between 31 March and 11 June 2008, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary met representatives from the DUP on the following occasions:

8 May
20 May
3 June

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary did not meet representatives from the UUP.

I will place this list in the Library.

Departmental Records: Lost Property

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to find the case files relating to the constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall, reference J1107380. [212026]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 18 June 2008.

Deportation: China

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Chinese nationals convicted of criminal offences in the United Kingdom were deported in each of the last six years; [211834]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Chinese Government on accepting Chinese nationals intended for deportation from the United Kingdom who have been convicted of criminal offences in the UK. [211835]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with all of the most robust and accurate information available.

She advised the Committee in her letter of 17 December 2007 that through ongoing negotiations with foreign governments the UK has now established safe routes and re-documentation arrangements with a significant number of countries and that this is aiding our ability to return prisoners and other people at an improving pace. In particular we have signed a returns agreement with China and we are working ever more closely with governments around the world to facilitate removals.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each plan. [210843]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office produced its euro changeover plan in December 2002; related arrangements for its agencies were included in the Home Office Plans.

A copy of the plan has been placed in the Library.

Essex Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average amount of time each week that police officers in Essex Police spent *(a)* on patrol and *(b)* dealing with paperwork in the last 12 months. [211239]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 June 2008]:* The latest available data are for 2006-07 and are set out in the following table.

Essex police – time spent on patrol and paperwork

2006-07	*Percentage*
Time Spent on Patrol	11.80
Time Spent on all Paperwork	24.70
Time Spent on Incident Related Paperwork[1]	11.60

[1] Also included in time spent on paperwork.

Time on patrol on its own does not provide an accurate picture of frontline police activity. In 2006-07 Essex police officers spent 64.8 per cent. of their time on frontline duties. The measurement of time on patrol only refers to the time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. Any activity that an officer responds to while on patrol (such as street crime or a burglary) is recorded separately against the other activity and not shown as patrol. In the last three years the Essex police has returned 1,000 police officers to frontline duties from back office functions.

We are committed to reducing the time spent on paperwork by police officers, as is Essex police. The force has made a pledge to attend the scene of every crime and take a full witness statement from all victims, dependent on their individual needs which may contribute to the extra time spent on paperwork.

I am told by Essex police that comparing 2007-08 with the previous year shows 8,000 fewer victims of crime in the county, 1,000 more crimes detected, 13,500 fewer incidents of antisocial behaviour, and an additional 3,500 persons arrested. This is welcome and shows that the force is making Essex a safer place in which to live.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has already accepted Sir Ronnie Flanagan's recommendation to remove lengthy Stop and Account forms, and will also consider more proportionate and streamlined stop and search and crime recording forms. We are continuing with consultation on reforms of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, streamlining the Criminal Justice process, and investing £50 million in new mobile data technology.

Helicopters: Tewkesbury

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a police helicopter was flying at grid reference GR 214 384, over land at Fiddington, adjacent to Clayton Lane, near Tewkesbury, on 4 December 2007 between 4.15 p.m. and 4.45 p.m. [211234]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* This would normally be a matter for the police, or police forces concerned. I have, however, been informed on this occasion that there were no police helicopters flying at grid reference GR 214 384, over land at Fiddington, adjacent to Clayton Lane, near Tewkesbury, on 4 December 2007 between 4.15 p.m. and 4.45 p.m.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum number of persons is that can be held on the immigration detention estate. [212345]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration detention estate is comprised of dedicated male, female and family accommodation, giving a normal total capacity of 2,550 places.

An ongoing refurbishment and repair programme has temporarily reduced the current capacity to 2,477 places.

Internet: Advertising

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will review the guidance note her Department has issued on the compatibility of targeted online advertising with existing legislation, with particular reference to the online marketing tool, Phorm; [210914]

(2) what reports she has received on the compatibility of the internet marketing tool Phorm with existing legislation; and if she will make a statement; [210915]

(3) what investigations have been carried out by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* police forces into the use of the internet marketing tool Phorm. [210916]

Mr. McNulty: In response to requests from some companies in the communications industry for a Home Office view on targeted online advertising and the applicability of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), a note was issued in February this year. The note was produced without reference to any particular technology or application. It was not intended for publication, but was disseminated by one of the companies. It can be found at:

> http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/pipermail/ukcrypto/2008-March/083561.html

The note expressed a generalised view on whether RIPA was relevant to targeted online advertising. However, it was not formal guidance nor was it a definitive statement of the law. The Home Office has subsequently received a number of representations and reports from interested parties who have expressed their view on this matter. Those representations have not changed the Home Office view, as set out in the note.

The Home Office has not undertaken any investigations into any targeted online advertising services. Investigations of this nature would be a matter for the police, although we are not aware of any such investigations.

Jean Charles de Menezes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers in her Department, *(c)* her special advisers and *(d)* officials in her Department had with the Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis about Jean Charles de Menezes in each week since January 2006; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (A) administrative and (B) other costs; and if she will make a statement. [192488]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Regular discussions take place between the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and Ministers and senior Home Office officials on matters of mutual interest. During the period in question these will have included on occasion the tragic case of Mr. de Menezes.

Lincolnshire Police Authority

Mr. Hogg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to make a statement on the precept levied by the Lincolnshire Police Authority. [211587]

Mr. McNulty: The Lincolnshire police authority have submitted written representations as to why their budget increase was not excessive and have also made oral representations at a joint meeting with my hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Government, and me.

We are currently considering those representations and will make an announcement as soon as possible.

Metropolitan Police: Public Relations

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department has on the amount spent by the Metropolitan Police on public relations in each of the last four years. [209325]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* This is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Service.

MI5: Political Impartiality

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, what criteria govern the range of subjects on which it is appropriate for the Security Service to express a professional view without contravention of its political neutrality. [210476]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The Security Service is the UK's security intelligence agency. It works to protect the UK against covertly organised threats by obtaining, collating, analysing and assessing secret intelligence relating to threats to national security.

Section 1 of the Security Service Act 1989 establishes the functions of the Security Service as:

> "... the protection of national security and, in particular, its protection against threats from espionage, terrorism and sabotage, from the activities of agents of foreign powers and from actions intended to overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means ...";

> " ... to safeguard the economic well-being of the United Kingdom against threats posed by the actions or intentions of persons outside the British Islands ..."; and

> " ... to act in support of the activities of police forces, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and other law enforcement agencies in the prevention and detection of serious crime ...".

It is on these functions that it is appropriate for the Service to advise the Government, normally in private. This in no way conflicts with the duty placed on the Director General, by section 2(2)(b),

> "... that the Service does not take any action to further the interest of any political party...".

This requirement for political neutrality is reflected in the Home Secretary's reply of 9 June. There might from time to time be circumstances in which a statement is made for public information. It is for the Director General to decide when and in what circumstances to issue such a statement in consultation with the Secretary of State, other agencies or Departments, or the police, as appropriate.

Missing Persons: Cheshire

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Cheshire constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207239]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Cheshire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Cumbria

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Cumbria constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area of origin; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12 years, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 years and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207306]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Cumbria constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Derbyshire

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Derbyshire constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged between 12 and 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207773]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Derbyshire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Devon

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Devon and Cornwall constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area of origin; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12 years, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 years and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207304]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Devon and Cornwall constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Durham

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Durham constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged between 12 and 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207772]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Durham constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Gloucestershire constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207798]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Gloucestershire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Greater London

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to the Metropolitan police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207689]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Metropolitan police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Greater Manchester

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Greater Manchester police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207241]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for. Greater Manchester police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Hampshire

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Hampshire constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged between 12 and 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207770]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Hampshire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Kent constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207691]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Kent constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Lincolnshire

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Lincolnshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged between 12 and 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207771]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Lincolnshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Merseyside

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Merseyside police in 2007, broken down by local authority area of origin; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12 years, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 years and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207305]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Merseyside police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Northamptonshire

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing persons were made to Northamptonshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207245]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Northamptonshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Northumbria

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Northumbria police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207238]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Northumbria police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Nottinghamshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207307]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Nottinghamshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Somerset

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Avon and Somerset constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207240]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Avon and Somerset constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: South Yorkshire

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to South Yorkshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207244]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for South Yorkshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Staffordshire

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Staffordshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207242]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Staffordshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Sussex

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Sussex police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207539]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Sussex police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Thames Valley

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Thames Valley police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12 years, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 years and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years old related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207444]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Thames Valley police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to West Midlands police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207538]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for West Midlands police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: West Yorkshire

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to West Yorkshire police in 2007, broken down by local authority area, and how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207434]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* This is a matter for West Yorkshire police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Missing Persons: Wiltshire

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Wiltshire constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [207690]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Wiltshire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

The Missing Persons Bureau has as one of its priorities the development of a national picture of the phenomenon of missing persons. It is working towards this in conjunction with its partners and stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group.

National Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has liaised with her counterparts in the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government, *(b)* Northern Ireland Executive and *(c)* Scottish Executive in respect of the application of anti-terrorism measures to the devolved Administrations as set out in The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England. [210895]

Mr. McNulty: The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Home Office works with colleagues in the devolved Administrations to ensure that the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is delivered effectively across the UK.

The Prevent Guide published on 3 June 2008 is aimed at local partners in England only because of the different local delivery arrangements in the devolved Administrations. However, much of the cross-cutting information it contains will help local partners and partnerships in the devolved Administrations to develop and implement effective actions to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists or violent extremists.

Office for Civil Nuclear Security: Vetting

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Office for Civil Nuclear Security on the implications for its vetting procedures of the addition of several categories of nuclear specialists to the national shortage list. [211944]

Mr. Byrne: No discussions have been held with the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). Employers are responsible for ensuring that appropriate vetting is undertaken with the OCNS.

Changes to the national shortage list are based on labour market considerations only, where research, endorsed by industry stakeholders, highlights UK-wide skills shortages.

Police Custody

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force have undertaken Operation Safeguard duties in the last 12 months; and how much time was spent on such duties by each force. [202369]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Operation Safeguard is an arrangement between the National Offender Management Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The estimated cost to NOMS of the provision of police cells under Operation Safeguard in 2007-08 is in the region of £53 million. This includes staff costs. The number of police officers who have taken part in Operation Safeguard is an operational matter for police authorities and chief officers and the information is not held centrally.

Police: ICT

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future *(a)* governance and *(b)* funding of NSPIS Custody and Case Preparation; and if she will make a statement. [211852]

Mr. McNulty: Now that the implementation of the NSPIS Custody and Case Preparation systems has been achieved, the programme is nearing completion and plans are in place for its formal closure. At that point, the responsibility for the governance of the delivered systems will pass to the National User Group which is chaired by an ACPO officer and which is made up of representatives from forces and from the NPIA.

The cost of the NSPIS CuCP programme will be met by the NPIA in 2008-09. Thereafter, the costs of supporting and maintaining these systems will be shared with police forces. The NPIA is working with the National User Group to agree a programme of work to reduce these costs.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the IMPACT programme; and if she will make a statement. [211853]

Mr. McNulty: The IMPACT Programme, which is now part of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), has made considerable progress on its three main work streams:

> The programme is helping forces to implement the requirements of the Code of Practice and supporting Guidance on the Management of Police Information, which together provide a national framework for improved and more consistent processes for managing information. As part of this, two sets of peer reviews have been completed, the results of which show that forces are making good progress towards the target of implementation across all business areas by 2010. A third set of reviews is ongoing and is due to be completed later this year.
>
> The programme delivered the IMPACT Nominal Index (INI) in December 2005. This provides a means for an investigating officer in one force or other policing agency to quickly and efficiently establish which other policing agencies might hold information on an individual of interest to their inquiries. The system has now been deployed to 67 organisations across the United Kingdom and currently holds over 61 million records. Over the 12 months from April 2007, use of the INI tripled, with around 36,000 searches being conducted in March 2008. Since its deployment, around half-a-million searches have been conducted in total, an estimated 11 per cent. of which have led to requests to other agencies for access to information they hold.
>
> The programme is in the process of selecting a commercial partner to design, build, deploy and run a Police National Database (PND). Having established the Police Services' requirements, a Contract Notice was published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union in May 2007. From the 14 consortia that formally responded, the Programme selected three to participate in detailed negotiations. It is anticipated that, following completion of these negotiations and the evaluation of the final tenders, a contract will be awarded to the successful supplier before the end of 2008.

It is planned to roll out the system in phases, with the first phase focusing on sharing and linking information that is currently held in local systems across the main United Kingdom police forces. Most of the first phase of capabilities are expected to be deployed during 2010, although it is possible that some early functionality might be delivered during 2009.

Subject to affordability in the next spending period, the second phase will focus on broadening the user base for the PND and securing the long term future of the current Police National Computer. Deployment of phase two is expected to commence after 2012.

Police: Joint Ventures

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she provides guidance to chief constables on the appropriateness of them serving on the boards of joint venture companies which have a majority shareholding by a private company. [211443]

Mr. McNulty: No such guidance has been issued. Regulation 7 of the Police Regulations 2003 requires that chief police officers give written notice of any business interest to the relevant police authority.

Police: Pay

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of backdating the revision of commutation factors for the lump sum paid to all police officers who retired before 1 October 2007; [212173]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of retired police officers who would benefit if the revision of commutation factors for the lump sum paid to all police officers who retired before 1 October 2007 was backdated; [212174]

(3) for what reasons the backdating of changes to the revision of commutation factors for the lump sum paid to retiring police officers was applied to officers retiring after 1 October 2007. [212175]

Mr. McNulty: The detailed arrangements for the implementation of new lump sum commutation factors under the Police Pension Scheme 1987 required time for consideration and consultation across Departments before they could be put in place. In view of the time taken we decided, in consultation with the Government Actuary's Department, that it would be appropriate to backdate implementation to 1 October 2007.

As at 31 March 2007, the most recent date for which figures are available, projections suggested a total of 95,000 retired police officers in receipt of a police pension. Estimates have not been made of the number of these former officers who commuted part of their annual pension for a lump sum or the cost of applying the new commutation factors to all such former officers.

Stop and Search: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been stopped and searched by police in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnic background. [210338]

Mr. McNulty: Data on stops and searches are collected by police force area. People stopped and searched are not required to provide their age or date of birth. Therefore information is not available on break down by age.

Information on the number of stop and searches by ethnicity in the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police areas for 2006-07 will be published in July 2008. The following tables provide statistics for the reporting years 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Metropolitan Police: 'Stop and search' by ethnicity, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Number

	Ethnic appearance of person searched					
	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not known/recorded*	*Total*
2001-02	102,250	67,894	25,264	3,801	4,124	203,333
2002-03	142,514	93,783	35,849	6,317	6,172	284,635
2003-04	124,974	84,952	29,988	6,326	1,025	247,265
2004-05	125,469	88,975	30,180	7,380	1,919	253,923
2005-06	147,995	107,175	39,382	10,338	4,127	309,017

City of London Police: 'Stop and search' by ethnicity, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Number

	Ethnic appearance of person searched					
	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Not known/recorded*	*Total*
2001-02	2,075	846	559	186	78	3,744
2002-03	5,859	1,526	1,262	622	0	9,269
2003-04	7,624	1,756	1,422	430	1,242	12,474
2004-05	8,727	1,869	1,544	445	1,295	13,880
2005-06	9,085	2,358	2,593	327	64	14,427

Note:

Police officers have the power to stop and search individuals under a range of legislation, including section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) as well as section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Section 44 information was not collected until 2002-03.

Source and quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210841]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office estate in 2 Marsham Street has two TV feeds:

(a) One via satellite that can access "free to air" service for all channels used. There is no cost to this service.

(b) One via cable from the Palace of Westminster. This provides:

> Division Bell overlay used by the Secretary and Ministers of State to advise when their attendance is required to vote:
>
> Parliamentary channels not available to the general public derived from the Palace itself (e.g. live feeds from both chambers and Westminster Hall); and other channels as part of the package, but these are not itemised individually.

The charge for the cable service is £12,500 per annum plus £1,500 for annual line maintenance between the Palace of Westminster and 2 Marsham Street.

Beyond the 2 Marsham Street estate, individual business areas are able to buy their own television and cable equipment and subscriptions and there is no centralised record of such services purchased by the agencies of the Department.

Terrorism: Detainees

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where suspects are held under the provisions of counter-terrorism legislation in pre-charge detention; whether they are allowed to see family visitors; whether they are allowed access to print, visual and online media; and if she will make a statement. [211480]

Mr. McNulty: PACE code H which covers the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons under section 41 of, and schedule 8 to, the Terrorism Act 2000 states that:

> (i) Where a warrant is issued which authorises detention beyond a period of 14 days from the time of arrest, the detainee must be transferred from detention in a police station to detention in a designated prison unless the detained person requests to be detained in a police station and this can be accommodated or there are reasonable grounds for believing that transferring the person to prison may hinder a terrorism investigation, delay the charge or release of the individual or otherwise prevent the investigation from proceeding efficiently and expeditiously (para 14.5).

(ii) If the detainee agrees, they may receive visits from friends, family or others likely to take an interest in their welfare, at the custody officer's discretion (para 5.4)

(iii) The detainee shall be given writing materials, on request, and allowed to telephone one person for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of an inspector or above (para 5.6).

These codes can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/pace-code-intro/

UK Border Agency: Stationery

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery in each year since 1997. [212355]

Mr. Byrne: Annual spend by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors is included within the Department's expenditure on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery. For information on the Department's expenditure on these items, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 471W. Discrete spend for the UK Border Agency and its predecessors on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery was not separately recorded and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Work Permits

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holders of work permits were given indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [212858]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The requested information on work permit holders granted indefinite leave to remain (settlement) is published in Table 5.3 in the Home Office Command Paper 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-publications.html.

Data for 2007 are due to be published in August.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 203949 tabled on 30 April 2008, on counter-terrorism. [208837]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* I replied to my right hon. Friend on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 685-86W.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency staff were hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211326]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For information on reported physical assaults I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1654W.

Air Ambulance Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 744W, on air ambulance services, which air ambulance personnel may be classified as qualified clinical staff. [213261]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is our understanding that clinical staffing arrangements on air ambulances vary considerably from charity to charity, with different combinations of paramedics, doctors, and technicians on board. It will be for the national health service and air ambulance charities to agree which staff should be funded by the NHS.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Know Your Limits campaign; and what *(a)* mechanisms, *(b)* baselines and *(c)* targets have been established to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. [207033]

Dawn Primarolo: On 19 May 2008, the Government launched the first major advertising campaign to raise awareness about units and to help people to estimate how much alcohol they drink. The Government will spend £10 million this year on national alcohol campaigns.

We have a number of tools in place to evaluate the effectiveness of the Know Your Limits (KYL) campaign:

throughout the campaign's development we have tested potential messaging in independent qualitative creative development research to ensure creative material engages and resonates with the target audience;

we have quantitative campaign tracking research in place which will measure pre to post shifts in awareness, understanding, attitudes and motivations towards alcohol consumption in response to the campaign and will continue to measure these factors throughout the campaign's life. We will be able to benchmark these results against other Government campaigns when establishing targets; and

the campaign will also be evaluated in terms of how effectively it generates responses and requests for further information and advice through online, phone and face to face services. These data will again be benchmarked against other Government campaigns to aid target setting.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many primary care trusts in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the east of England are the Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers best practice guidelines being implemented; and if he will make a statement. [213090]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not centrally held.

The responsibility for implementing Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers (MoCAM) lies with individual primary care trusts. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this locally.

Ambulance Services: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the supply of fuel to ambulances during the strike by fuel supply drivers. [212159]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received only one representation on the subject of fuel for ambulances during the fuel tanker drivers' strike. This was a parliamentary question received from the hon. Member.

Antidepressants

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been carried out by his Department to establish the long-term effects of Prozac and related drugs on mental health. [211264]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned research into the long-term effects of Prozac and other related drugs on mental health.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what unit cost the NHS pays for the drug cetuximab; what price for cetuximab it charges patients being seen privately in an NHS setting; and what estimate he has made of the full market price per unit. [210471]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: As listed in the "British National Formulary", hospitals purchasing cetuximab pay the following prices:

	£
100 milligram (mg)/50 millilitre (ml) vial	136.50
100 mg/20 ml vial	136.50
500 mg/100 ml vial	682.50

The Department does not hold information on charges made by the national health service to private patients.

Care Quality Commission

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers he plans for the Care Quality Commission to have to conduct topic-based studies into specific aspects of health and social care. [212189]

Mr. Bradshaw: Clause 44 of the Health and Social Care Bill makes provision for the Care Quality Commission to carry out special reviews and investigations.

Carers

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health impact on carers of balancing work with care responsibilities; if he will assess the merits of the introduction of a care voucher scheme, similar to that in operation for child care; and if he will make a statement. [162409]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In April 2003, the Government introduced a new right for parents of children up to six and disabled children up to 18, to request flexible working and put a duty on the employer to consider their request seriously. The Work and Families Act 2006 extended this right to carers of adults from April 2007. Most carers will be given the right to request to vary their contract of employment to enable them more flexibility to carry out their out of work responsibilities.

Last week, we published the new cross-government carers' strategy. This included significant new measures to enable carers to be better able to combine paid employment with their caring role through enhanced flexible working opportunities and increased skills training opportunities. The strategy announced some £38 million of new investment to help deliver these commitments.

We will be working with employers to develop and disseminate a good practice guide for supporting carers in the workplace—a guide that will not only considerably help individual carers themselves, but which will also point up the strong economic argument for enabling employers to retain the valuable skills that their employees have developed over time.

Carers: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the National Carers Strategy. [211942]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The health, social care and young carer elements in the National Carers Strategy—'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: A caring system on your side. A life of your own', are relevant to the England only—although all issues pertaining to benefits and income are applicable United Kingdom-wide. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. We are working closely with all our partners in the devolved Administrations who are also reviewing their policies and strategies around carers.

CJD

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned or evaluated on *(a)* the origins, *(b)* a cure and *(c)* the potential incubation period of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. [211954]

Dawn Primarolo: In 1990 the Department established the National Surveillance Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Unit (NCJDSU), which we continue to fund. The NCJDSU monitors all cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in the United Kingdom in order to investigate each case by clinical examination, clinical investigations, neuropathological examination, genetic analysis, molecular biological studies, collecting basic epidemiological data and carrying out a case-control study to:

provide accurate data on the incidence of CJD, including variant CJD (vCJD);

investigate risk factors for CJD, including vCJD;

identify the mechanism of transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to the human population;

provide estimates of short-term and long-term trends in the rate of occurrence of vCJD;

evaluate the potential risks of onward transmission of vCJD, including through iatrogenic routes;

identify any novel forms of human spongiform encephalopathy;

evaluate case definitions of CJD, including vCJD; and

evaluate diagnostic tests for CJD, including vCJD.

The NCJDSU's annual reports which include evaluations of the origin and potential incubation period of vCJD are available at

www.cjd.ed.ac.uk.

The Department also has a ring-fenced budget for commissioning variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease research. The funded programme of current studies and projects, including those studies which are complete and await formal closure, includes the following of relevance to origins, cure and incubation period:

Project title

Assessing the Feasibility of accessing dental case records for detailed dental histories in CJD cases and controls

Conditional expression of PrP in the gut of transgenic mice to investigate the uptake of infectivity in the gut in the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)

Examination of the potential for transmission of vCJD through dentistry

Investigating dental treatment as a possible risk factor for vCJD

Investigation into transmissibility of TSEs via blood

National Prion monitoring cohort

Predicting future numbers of cases of vCJD

Retrospective review of CJD and related disorders

Surveillance for asymptomatic Prion infection in primary immunodeficiency patients exposed to UK sourced immunoglobulin

The effect of Leucodepletion on transmission of BSE by transfusion of sheep blood components

To undertake prospective multisource surveillance for all cases of progressive intellectual and neurological deterioration (PIND) occurring in children in the UK

Transfusion medicine epidemiology review (TMER)

vCJD tissue infectivity studies

Investigation of Pentosan Polysulphate as a potential prophylactic agent against the transmission of vCJD by blood products

Prion 1 clinical trial: Quinacrine for human Prion disease

Strategies to inhibit neurodegeneration in Prion disease

The development of an effective treatment for Prion infection of humans.

Past studies commissioned by the Department are included in the Medical Research Council's (MRCs) UK TSE Portfolio which is available at:

www.mrc.ac.uk/OurResearch/ResearchPortfolios/TSE/UKTSEPortfolio/index.htm

which contains details of TSE research supported by the major UK public funders: the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of Health, the Food Standards Agency, the MRC and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

As a joint funder of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) the Department has considered the studies set out in the list of scientific papers supplied to SEAC available at

www.seac.gov.uk/papers/references.htm

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were diagnosed in *(a)* humans and *(b)* animals in each of the last five years; and what the identified cause of infection was in each case. [211956]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures provided by the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit show the following number of patients received a diagnosis of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the last five years:

	Number
2003	16
2004	8
2005	6
2006	6
2007	1
2008 (to 16 June)	1

In three cases, one in 2003 and two in 2006, the diagnosed patients are thought to have been infected by blood transfusions from donors who later went on to develop vCJD. In all other cases the presumed route of infection is thought to be dietary.

There are no cases of vCJD in animals.

Departmental Consultants

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* self-employed staff and *(b)* outside contractors were employed in his Department in each year since 2004; and how much was spent on each category in each of those years. [207649]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs temporary staff for a variety of reasons, including:

to cover short-term vacancies, such as the need for administrative support;

to fill posts temporarily because they are likely to be relocated or because structural changes are being implemented; and

to provide skills that the Department does not have but needs urgently and/or on a short-term basis.

It does not separately identify numbers or costs of self employed staff and outside contractors.

On numbers, the quality and coverage of information held historically by the Department on temporary workers has been limited. We have therefore been working over the past year to improve our recording, in preparation for the launch of a new human resources and finance system this summer. We think that some of our historic numbers may slightly underestimate actual levels. Recent quarterly figures are shown as follows:

Date	*Number*
31 December 2006[1]	222
31 March 2007	179
30 June 2007	176
30 September 2007	165
31 December 2007	141
31 March 2008	152

[1] Figures are not available before December 2006.

On costs, financial year figures since April 2004 are shown as follows:

	£000
2004-05	12,800
2005-06	6,000
2006-07	7,126
2007-08	9,742

Note:
The 2006-07 figure is based on a scaling up of expenditure in the first 11 months of the year. The 2007-08 figure is based on a detailed analysis of expenditure in March 2008 and assumes the same level of monthly expenditure was incurred throughout the year.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press, information and news officers are employed *(a)* by his Department (i) centrally and (ii) in the regions and *(b)* by each primary care trust, *(c)* by each hospital and *(d)* by agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible. [210978]

Mr. Bradshaw: A return on the number and cost of press officers in the Department's Media Centre is published at the end of each financial year. At the end of the financial year 2007-08 the number of press officers was 28.

The Department does not employ any information officers or press officers in the regions, primary care trusts (PCTs) or hospitals. Figures for numbers of information officers or press officers employed by regions, PCTs or hospitals are not collected centrally.

The Department has two Executive agencies. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency does not employ press officers, and media services are supplied by the Department's Media Centre. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has employed three press officers since it was set up in 2005-06.

Information on the breakdown of staffing and costs of non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199537]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs permanent and temporary civil servants, and temporary non-civil servants. Temporary staff are employed for a variety of reasons, including:

to cover short-term vacancies, such as the need for administrative support;

to fill posts temporarily because they are likely to be relocated or because structural changes are being implemented; and

to provide skills that the Department does not have but needs urgently and/or on a short-term basis.

The Department does not report numbers of permanent and temporary civil servants monthly. Quarterly figures (full-time equivalent numbers) are shown as follows:

Date	*Permanent*	*Temporary*	*Total*
2005			
30 June	2,237	72	2,310
30 September	2,274	59	2,333
31 December	2,323	72	2,395
2006			
31 March	2,321	66	2,387
30 June	2,225	54	2,279
30 September	2,260	47	2,307
31 December	2,256	45	2,301
2007			
31 March	2,251	37	2,288
30 June	2,231	36	2,267
30 September	2,148	32	2,181
31 December	2,151	38	2,189
2008			
31 March	2,161	42	2,203

Note:
Some totals do not exactly match the sum of permanent and temporary due to rounding.

The quality and coverage of information held historically by the Department on temporary or agency workers has been limited. We have therefore been working over the past year to improve our recording, in preparation for the launch of a new human resources and finance system this summer. We think that some of our historic numbers may slightly underestimate actual levels. Recent quarterly figures are shown as follows:

Date	*Number*
2006	
31 December	222
2007	
31 March	179
30 June	176
30 September	165
31 December	141
2008	
31 March	152

Notes:
Figures are not available before December 2006.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many special advisers are employed in his Department; and what the aggregate employment cost of special advisers in his Department is on an annualised basis. [212677]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department currently employs two special advisers. Their aggregate annual salary cost is £125,256.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199538]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs permanent and temporary civil servants, and temporary non-civil servants. Temporary staff are employed for a variety of reasons, including to cover short-term vacancies, such as the need for administrative support; to fill posts temporarily because they are likely to be relocated or because structural changes are being implemented; and to provide skills that the Department does not have but needs urgently and/or on a short-term basis.

Salaries for permanent and temporary civil servants for each month since May 2005 are shown in the following table:

	£000
2005	
May	9,262
June	9,434
July	10,462
August	9,716
September	9,898
October	9,801
November	10,966
December	11,299
2006	
January	8,678
February	10,351
March	10,488
April	8,524
May	8,494
June	8,413
July	9,843
August	8,734
September	8,647
October	8,387
November	8,444
December	9,733
2007	
January	8,793
February	8,488
March	8,833
April	8,578
May	8,512
June	8,431
July	8,696
August	8,667
September	8,426
October	8,499
November	10,225
December	8,670
2008	
January	8,784
February	8,581
March	8,623

Note:
The information represents actual payments each month and includes basic pay, allowances, overtime and bonuses for all staff on the payroll. It includes people on secondment to other organisations but not those on secondment to the Department. It does not include employer's costs for national insurance and pensions. Amounts for permanent and temporary civil servants cannot be identified separately. Figures can on occasions vary significantly from month to month, often because of the timing of the implementation of pay awards and the payment of arrears.

The Department does not employ permanent non-civil servants.

For temporary and agency workers, financial year figures since April 2005 are as follows:

	£000
2005-06	6,000
2006-07	7,126
2007-08	9,742

Note:
The 2006-07 figure is based on a scaling up of expenditure in the first 11 months of the year. The 2007-08 figure is based on a detailed analysis of expenditure in March 2008 and assumes the same level of monthly expenditure was incurred throughout the year.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210556]

Mr. Bradshaw: Spending on training courses by the Department and its agencies over the last 12 months and the last five years is as follows:

		£
	Last 12 months	*Last five years*
The Department	1,312,256	n/a
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	751,000	3,973,000
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	148,670	1,064,260

Note:
The Department has insufficient data available to provide an accurate figure for the last five years. The Department's figure for the last 12 months covers corporate training only. There was local expenditure in addition to this. Information on this is not held centrally and to gather it would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 446W, on departmental working hours, for how long contracted hours have differed for staff within and outside London; and what the reasons were for the different contracts. [211967]

Mr. Bradshaw: Until the mid-1990s the working hours of staff within and outside London were common across all Government Departments. The shorter number of contracted hours in London was in recognition of generally longer travelling to work times. Since then

Government Departments have taken on responsibility for deciding on many aspects of the terms and conditions of their staff, but the Department has retained the previous civil service wide arrangements on working hours.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was between referral and treatment for drug treatment programmes in each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [210406]

Dawn Primarolo: Waiting times in the drug treatment system in England is not available over the last five years. Published data prior to April 2006 reported average waiting times, but since then published data have reported the numbers of clients in structured drug treatment (as a percentage of the total treatment population) who wait three weeks or less.

During 2006-07, 89 per cent. of service users of the drug treatment system in England waited three weeks or less to access specialist drug treatment.[1]

Waiting time targets for each drug action team area in England and their performance against these are available in each area's annual treatment plan which are available at www.nta.nhs.uk. These data are presented in the form of the percentage of drug treatment clients who accessed the treatment they required within three weeks of assessment.

[1] *Source:*

National Treatment Agency 2006-07 Annual Report.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 and over were referred to drug treatment centres in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority area of residence. [210407]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on referrals are not collected centrally.

However, published annual data on the numbers of clients in specialist drug treatment services in England by age (under 18 and 18 and over) for the four years between 2003-04 and 2006-07 are provided in the following tables. Data are not yet available for 2007-08.

Changes in the boundaries of some strategic health authority areas (SHA) in recent years, do not allow direct comparisons of drug treatment data over time by SHA area. Published information on clients attending specialist drug treatment services in England is routinely presented either as a national figure or by local drug action team/partnerships areas, which are co-terminus with local authority areas.

Age of clients in treatment, between 2003-04 and 2006-07

Age range	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Under 18s	6,536	8,851	11,917	13,680
Over 18s	119,009	151,602	165,138	181,784
Total	125,545	160,453	177,055	195,464

Note:

The increase in young people appearing in the drug treatment numbers reflects an increase in treatment capacity and accuracy in reporting rather than an increase in the incidence of young people developing substance misuse dependency.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist youth drug dependency workers in each strategic health authority area there are; and how many there were in each of the last five years. [210408]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information on the numbers of specialist youth drug dependency workers employed in England.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [211563]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department spent the following on refreshments for official meetings and engagements during the last three years:

	£
2005-06	674,087
2006-07	833,129
2007-08	695,682

The Department does not supply any Fairtrade products for refreshments for official meetings and engagements.

Food Standards Agency: Overseas Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Food Standards Agency spent on international travel and accommodation to outline and promote its multiple traffic light labelling scheme in each of the last two years [211101]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency spent £380 in 2006-07 and £4,835 in 2007-08 on international travel and accommodation to outline and promote multiple traffic light labelling.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1673-74W, on general practitioners, (1) whether officials in his Department conducted trials of different weightings; [209178]

(2) what weighting was given to each of the individual measures within each of the three indicators; [209179]

(3) what the basis was for the decision to weight the different indicators in this way. [209180]

Mr. Bradshaw: Officials in the Department worked with the national health service to identify the range of indicators that best determined those primary care trusts (PCTs) with greatest needs. The weighting agreed reflects discussions held with the NHS to ensure the new investment to procure additional capacity would not result in an increase in resources in areas that already had above the national average number of primary medical care clinicians within the PCT. The following table shows the weightings given to the individual numbers.

General practitioner (GP)-led health centres—indictors and weightings used to determine PCTs with the poorest provision

Indicator	*Weighting total 100 per cent.*
Primary care capacity	
Whole-time equivalent (Wte) GPs per 10,000 weighted population	30
Wte practice nurses per 10,000 weighted population	30
Health outcomes	
Male life expectancy	4.29
Female life expectancy	4.29
Cancer mortality among under 65s	4.29
Cardiovascular mortality among under 75s	4.29
Index of multiple deprivation (health)	4.29
Percentage of patients with diabetes in whose HbA1c is 7.5 or less	4.29
Percentage of patients with hypertension in whose blood pressure reading is 150/90 or less	4.29
Patient satisfaction	
Percentage patients seen within 48 hours	2
Percentage patients able to book an appointment more than two days ahead	2
Percentage patients satisfied with their practice telephone system	2
Percentage patients able to see a specific GP	2
Percentage patients satisfied with practice opening hours	2

General Practitioners: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with Shropshire GPs on proposals to introduce polyclinics. [209006]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not have any policy proposals to develop polyclinics. The Government are investing £250 million to introduce 152 general practitioner (GP)-led health centres to improve access and responsiveness, and 100 new GP practices in under-served areas. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to set out their proposals for these new GP-led health centres following consultation with patients, GPs and others, which focus on local needs and preferences. Local PCTs are ensuring strong public and clinical engagement when making decisions on the location and range of the services to be procured locally and Shropshire GPs should be engaging with their local PCT on these matters.

Health Education: First Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ambulance services are working in partnership with local authorities to provide first aid training for school pupils; and if he will make a statement. [210682]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected centrally.

Health Education: Skin Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of skin cancer awareness programmes; and if he will make a statement; [212239]

(2) how much was spent on skin cancer awareness programmes by his Department in each of the last five years. [212240]

Dawn Primarolo: SunSmart, run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments is the UK's national skin cancer prevention campaign. It provides information about skin cancer and sun protection for the public and professionals. Surveys carried out since the campaign's launch in 2003 show progress, for example evidence of increased public knowledge about risk factors for skin cancer.

The Department of Health in England contributed funding of around £100,000 towards the launching of the SunSmart campaign in March 2003. The campaign has received further funding in the last four financial years as follows:

	£
2004-05	72,000
2005-06	145,000
2006-07	150,000
2007-08	104,000

Hospitals: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children aged under 16 years, *(b)* persons aged 16 to 18 years, *(c)* persons aged 18 to 65 years and *(d)* persons aged over 65 years were admitted to hospital in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years with a primary or secondary cause of admissions listed as (i) sunburn, (ii) sunstroke and (iii) dehydration in each of the last five years. [212241]

Dawn Primarolo: Information has been placed in the Library which shows the number of hospital admissions for which sunburn, effects of heat and light (which includes sunstroke), and volume depletion (i.e. dehydration) are recorded as either primary or secondary diagnoses, by strategic health authority of treatment and age group.

Hospitals: Transport

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues on the responsibility of primary care and NHS trusts to consult *(a)* the public and *(b)* voluntary organisations on possible changes in patient transport services arising from the reconfiguration of hospitals and other services. [210138]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the local NHS.

On 9 May 2008, the Department of Health published "Changing for the Better: guidance when undertaking major change in the NHS". This recommends that, alongside proposals for service change, the local national health service publishes a business case setting out the clinical and patient benefits and that such options should also include a detailed analysis of the impact on travelling times and distances, identifying the impact on pedestrians and public and private transport users as well as the ambulance service.

Copies of this guidance have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084674

Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many magnetic resonance imaging scanners were purchased from *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK companies by the NHS in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [202930]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on the purchase of magnetic resonance imaging scanners centrally.

There are four main suppliers of scanners in the United Kingdom market and are all subsidiaries of multi-national organisations:

Siemens Medical Solutions;

Toshiba Medical Systems;

Philips Healthcare; and

GE Healthcare.

Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department will not publish the legal guidance provided to the Department relating to the report of the ministerial working party into the summary care record chaired by Lord Warner. [212237]

Mr. Bradshaw: The legal advice in question relates to the substance of our proposals for the creation of the summary care record rather than to the report of the working party. It is covered by legal professional privilege, which provides grounds, recognised in an exemption under section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act, for not disclosing communications between a public authority and its legal advisers where this would not be in the public interest.

Legal privilege is an essential feature of the solicitor/client relationship in that it allows frank and fully-informed analysis of risk to be made prior to undertaking a particular course of action. We have taken the view that there is a very strong public interest in maintaining that principle in this case.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to bringing forward legislative proposals to prevent information recorded on the secondary users database being used in ways which may be detrimental to the person to whom the information relates. [212178]

Mr. Bradshaw: Legislative proposals are unnecessary since information managed within the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) will be no more likely to be used in ways detrimental to the patient to whom it relates than that held elsewhere in the NHS Care Records Service, or that which was previously held in the pre-existing secondary uses services provided at local, regional and national level in the national health service.

Information held on SUS will be anonymised or pseudonymised to remove information that could be used to identify individuals but still allow cases to be tracked and linked, for example for research.

The terms and conditions on the uses of SUS data will include limitations on the disclosure of the data to third parties and the copying of data, and termination and liability clauses in the event of unauthorised disclosure of personally-identifiable information. There will also be a right of audit to verify adherence to the terms and conditions, which will be the key condition determining permission to access for those wishing to use the service.

These measures will safeguard the confidentiality of information about patients, while supporting and facilitating the use of information for the purposes for which SUS exists.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether clinicians will have an obligation to maintain a record of their dealings with patients on *(a)* any component of the national care records database or *(b)* a record which will be copied to a component of the database. [212180]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is an obligation on doctors from their professional bodies to keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records. We have not put any specific obligation on clinicians to maintain records on the patient's summary care record (SCR) but have encouraged them to include those components relating to current medications, and any allergies or adverse reactions to medications. However, patients can request that all or some of that information is not uploaded to the SCR.

It is possible that individual national health service organisations may require employed clinicians to use the system provided by the organisation for clinical record keeping, which could be part of the National Care Records System, since it may not be possible to provide some forms of care without information, for example digital images, which will be captured solely on the new systems.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS staff other than those based at the surgery at which the record was created will be able to access information in detailed care records directly; [212183]

(2) whether each patient's medical records will be recorded by the national care records service within a single detailed care record; and whether such detailed care records will be accessible by anyone in healthcare establishments other than those within which they were recorded. [212188]

Mr. Bradshaw: Detailed care record systems are being deployed under the local direction of health communities to suit the needs of those communities. While it is possible that a patient will have a single detailed care record this may not always be the case. Patients with complex conditions or who receive care in different locations are likely to have a number of detailed care records.

Individuals from outside the general practitioner's practice or national health service trust where a patient's detailed care record was created will only be able to access the record where they are working within a local health community where patient records are managed through a shared detailed record system and where they have a smartcard and role profile that enables access to patient records. Staff must also have a legitimate relationship with the patient, for example because they are providing healthcare or treatment in a different setting, or they have express consent from the patient for other reasons, for example clinical research, or there is a statutory basis or court order supporting disclosure.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to require primary care trusts (PCTs) to establish formal mechanisms to receive and consider applications from patients and clinicians for treatments not usually funded by the PCT; [204526]

(2) if he will issue guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) on exceptional case processes setting out best practice on *(a)* appeals, *(b)* liaison with patient advice and liaison services and *(c)* training for exceptional case committee members; if he will direct PCTs to publish data on the processing of exceptional cases; and if he will make a statement; [204527]

(3) whether he plans to issue national guidance on the obligations on primary care trusts in relation to the process of allowing applications from patients and clinicians for treatments that are not routinely funded by a primary care trust; [204833]

(4) what his policy is on whether all primary care trusts (PCTs) should use the same criteria to determine whether funding should be granted for treatments that a PCT does not usually fund; [204835]

(5) what his policy is on whether primary care trusts should have a formalised process for considering applications by patients and clinicians for treatments which are not usually funded by the primary care trust; and if he will make a statement; [205292]

(6) whether he plans to issue national guidance on the obligations on primary care trusts in relation to the processes for applications from patients and clinicians for treatments that are not routinely funded by a primary care trust; [205293]

(7) if he will *(a)* ensure that all primary care trusts (PCTs) publish their exceptional case process, including their appeals process, on their websites and through local Patient Advice and Liaison Services offices, *(b)* support PCTs in the provision of training to all members of exceptional case committees and *(c)* collect data on the number of exceptional cases heard, approved or declined and for which therapy in each case. [205294]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services on behalf of their populations and to make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all relevant circumstances and their statutory responsibilities and the principles of administrative law set out by the courts, particularly in relation to funding policies and whether to fund treatment in exceptional circumstances. The Government expect PCTs to have in place appropriate processes for reaching decisions on applications for treatments that are not normally funded, and to ensure that information on these processes is available to patients and clinicians, but the details and operation of such processes are for local determination.

Migraine

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into the treatment of migraine in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [212168]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with migraine, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" (copies of this publication are available in the Library) and the establishment of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities. The NIHR funded University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre is for example undertaking research on headache and pain. A five-year budget of £3.7 million has been allocated to this work.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC, an independent body, receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Since 1998 the MRC has funded three research projects relevant to migraine, at a total cost of £1.7 million.

NHS: Drugs

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the NHS of prescribing the drug Vioxx was in the latest period for which figures are available; [213160]

(2) if the Government will review the use of drugs produced by Merck Sharpe & Dohme Ltd; [213173]

(3) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of treating those with health impairments resulting from the use of Vioxx; [213174]

(4) whether alternative suppliers or a suitable alternative exist for each of the drugs, or a suitable alternative supplied to the NHS by Merck, Sharpe & Dohme; [213175]

(5) how much the NHS spent on drugs supplied by Merck, Sharpe & Dohme in each of the last five years. [213176]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2007, the net ingredient cost of Vioxx (rofecoxib) prescription items dispensed in England was £357.00[1].

Of a total of 39 chemical products listed on the Prescription Cost Analysis system (PCA) as manufactured by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme and dispensed in the community, 15 had no alternative manufacturer.

The net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community and in hospitals in England, which are listed as manufactured by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme are shown in the table.

[1] Source: PCA.

Net ingredient cost of products manufactured by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme

£ million

	Dispensed in community	*Dispensed in hospitals*	*Total*
2003	365	28	393
2004	311	26	337
2005	228	24	252
2006	239	26	265
2007	253	29	282

Sources:
PCA
IMS Health: Hospital Pharmacy Audit

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency continuously monitors the safety of all medicines in the United Kingdom. The Department has no plans to take additional measures to review separately the use of medicines manufactured by the company. Nor has it made any estimate of the cost to the national health service of treating people whose health has been adversely affected as a result of being prescribed Vioxx.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budget control targets and *(b)* outturns were for each primary care trust in London for 2007-08. [212341]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on national health service projections, the Department agreed financial performance ranges with each of the strategic health authorities (SHAs). It did not agree individual control totals with organisations below the SHA tier.

The draft, unaudited accounts for the primary care trusts within London strategic health economy are given in the following table:

Organisation name	*2007-08 draft accounts surplus/(deficit) £000*
Havering PCT	285
Kingston PCT	3,558
Bromley PCT	49
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,480
Barnet PCT	3,031
Hillingdon PCT	0
Enfield PCT	(13,308)
Barking and Dagenham PCT	20,687
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	9,480
Tower Hamlets PCT	396
Newham PCT	3,318
Haringey Teaching PCT	539
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	9,878
Ealing PCT	4,164
Hounslow PCT	(1,943)
Brent Teaching PCT	1,698
Harrow PCT	172
Camden PCT	3,854
Islington PCT	35
Croydon PCT	2,600
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,169
Westminster PCT	11,895
Lambeth PCT	1,079
Southwark PCT	478
Lewisham PCT	92
Wandsworth PCT	3,399
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	150
Sutton and Merton PCT	58
Waltham Forest PCT	102
Redbridge PCT	18,664
Bexley Care PCT	52

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance and advice his Department gave to London primary care trusts in the event of exceeding their budget control targets for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [212342]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on national health service projections, the Department agreed financial performance ranges with each of the strategic health authorities (SHAs). It did not agree individual control totals with organisations below the SHA tier.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to replace Fujitsu with an *(a)* existing and *(b)* new Local Service Provider. [212277]

Mr. Bradshaw: A decision will be taken in due course. Meanwhile, work is underway to ensure a smooth transition to alternative arrangements. Fujitsu will continue to support information technology systems and services already provided to the national health service. New systems and services will be delivered either through existing suppliers or through a new framework contract that has been set up to deal with such situations. Final decisions will take into account the preferences and business cases of local NHS bodies.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons a contractual termination notice was issued to Fujitsu. [212280]

Mr. Bradshaw: The contractual termination notice was issued because of failure to meet key contractual milestones and to provide an acceptable remediation plan. Since payment for systems and services is only made when they are delivered and are deemed to be satisfactory, the taxpayer's interests have been protected in this case.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the total annual *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure on NHS information technology to be once the National Programme for IT in the NHS is complete. [212297]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service budgets for years beyond 2010-11 are dependent on the outcome of future spending reviews. It is therefore not possible to make meaningful estimates of the kind requested.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the annual recurrent *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue costs of (i) the National Network for the NHS (N3), (ii) the National Data Spine, (iii) the Care Records Service, (iv) HealthSpace, (v) Choose and Book, (vi) the Electronic Prescription Service, (vii) NHSmail, (viii) the Quality Management and Analysis System, (ix) the NHS Connecting for Health Service Desk and (x) the Picture Archiving and Communications Systems to be once the current contracts have been completed. [212299]

Mr. Bradshaw: These costs will depend on the outcome of future procurement decisions and contract negotiations, and for that reason it is not possible to make meaningful estimates of the kind requested.

NHS: Performance Appraisal

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems and procedures are in place for the performance management of NHS local commissioners. [212078]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) commission health services on behalf of their local population, and are performance managed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). The Department launched a nationally consistent commissioning assurance system in June 2008 to strengthen performance management of PCT commissioning. This system will be managed locally by the SHAs, and will hold PCTs to account for commissioning and reward improved performance against three areas of commissioning—health outcomes, commissioning competencies and board governance. Detailed information about commissioning assurance is provided in the 'Commissioning Assurance Handbook'. Copies of the handbook have been placed in the Library.

Personal Care Services: Health Hazards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the health risks of *(a)* botox treatment, *(b)* dental whitening, *(c)* spray tanning, *(d)* ultra-violet tanning, *(e)* tattooing, *(f)* piercing, *(g)* acupuncture and *(h)* electrolysis for (i) staff and (ii) customers of establishments carrying out such treatments. [210156]

Mr. Bradshaw: Very occasionally patients who receive botulinum toxin injections in the forehead experience a drooping of the eyelids or eyebrows, although this is temporary and will resolve itself when the effects of botulinum toxin wear off. Double vision or blurred vision can occur in rare cases.

In respect of dental whitening, the use of tooth whitening products containing over 0.1 per cent. hydrogen peroxide may carry risks to health these are the irritation of the soft tissues in the mouth and in the gastric tract if swallowed. Conditions such as a pre-existing tissue injury or the concurrent use of alcohol and/or tobacco, may exacerbate the toxic effect of hydrogen peroxide.

The use of fake tanning sprays may cause allergic reactions for some people and their use is not advised during pregnancy when the skin can become more sensitive. The Government strongly discourage the use of ultra-violet tanning for cosmetic purposes because of the increased risk of skin cancer.

Health complications for clients arising from tattooing, piercing, acupuncture and electrolysis are usually minor and self-limiting, such as local wound infections and swelling. Serious complications appear rare. There is a risk of blood-borne virus infection for staff and customers, if the procedures are not carried out hygienically. Customers with certain health conditions, such as for example a heart condition, should seek medical advice before having such procedures undertaken.

No professional assessment has been made regarding the effects on staff who carry out these treatments.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage change there has been in Government funding for treatment for prostate cancer in the last 10 years; and how many nurses specialising in prostate problems have been recruited. [213171]

Ann Keen: The information on funding is not available. In 2006-07, the national health service spent approximately £4.35 billion on cancer services in England, of which £414 million was spent on urological cancer services. NHS expenditure on prostate cancer cannot be separately identified.

Information on the number of prostate nurses is not held centrally. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities and work force development directorates to assess, plan and review their work force needs.

Skin Piercing: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to address the trend in people purchasing home piercing kits rather than approaching regulated clinics following the recent report by the Health Protection Agency. [212305]

Dawn Primarolo: The research by the Health Protection Agency, which the Department funded, indicates that nearly 90 per cent. of cosmetic piercings were carried out in specialist piercing shops, other shops or by mobile piercers. Cosmetic piercing that is carried out for gain on domestic premises is subject to local authority regulation. We keep the issue of home cosmetic piercing kits under review.

Warfarin

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many primary care trust areas doctors have decided to discontinue the provision of Warfarin testing facilities. [211640]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Specific services provided in general practice for patients on Warfarin, are commissioned locally and it is for local national health service providers to decide how to deliver services to patients.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210543]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has made no assessment of the level of demand for its services to be provided in the Welsh language. Agencies, non-departmental bodies and national health service organisations should take into account the demand for language and translation services when planning the needs and circumstances of their local populations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests to the Cabinet Office have not yet received a substantive decision owing to an on-going consideration of public interest issues, where the original request was made *(a)* 20 or more working days, *(b)* six or more months and *(c)* 12 or more months ago. [210942]

Edward Miliband: The Ministry of Justice has published three annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 2006 and 2007. All the reports are available on the Ministry of Justice's website. The 2005 and 2006 reports are at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 report is at this address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211757]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 295-6W and on 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1031W.

Information about expenditure on other office furnishings is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Cleethorpes, (ii) Great Grimsby, (iii) Brigg and Goole and (iv) Scunthorpe constituency in each year since 1997. [211850]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many (a) part-time and (b) full-time jobs there were in (i) Cleethorpes, (ii) Great Grimsby, (iii) Brigg and Goole and (iv) Scunthorpe constituency in each year since 1997. [211850].

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. This is the preferred source for estimates at the detailed level requested. Employment estimates are distinct from the number of jobs, which come from the Annual Business Inquiry.

Table 1, attached, provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in full and part-time employment, resident in Cleethorpes, Great Grimsby, Brigg and Goole and Scunthorpe.

Estimates based on the most recent parliamentary constituency boundaries are only available from 2001. Figures for 2001-2004 are for the twelve months ending February that year. Figures for 2005-2007 are for the twelve months ending March the same year.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1. Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part time[1] employment[2] in Cleethorpes, Great Grimsby, Brigg and Goole and Scunthorpe parliamentary constituencies[3], 2001-07

Thousand

	Cleethorpes			*Great Grimsby*			*Brigg and Goole*			*Scunthorpe*		
12 months ending	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
February 2001[4]	33	13	45	28	10	39	28	10	38	22	7	30

Table 1: Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part time[1] employment[2] in Cleethorpes, Great Grimsby, Brigg and Goole and Scunthorpe parliamentary constituencies[3], 2001-07

Thousand

	Cleethorpes			*Great Grimsby*			*Brigg and Goole*			*Scunthorpe*		
12 months ending	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
February 2002[4]	32	11	43	30	10	39	28	9	37	24	10	34
February 2003[4]	32	12	43	28	11	39	28	11	40	25	9	34
February 2004[4]	29	12	41	33	12	45	31	11	42	27	9	37
March 2005[5]	29	12	42	28	11	39	28	11	39	28	10	38
March 2006[5]	30	12	42	28	10	38	31	11	42	29	11	40
March 2007[5]	28	12	41	30	12	41	29	11	40	30	12	42

[1, 2] Includes those full-time and part-time on New Deal.

[3] 2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision.

[4] Based on annual Labour Force Survey (LFS).

[5] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS).

Notes:

1. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
2. Due to rounding the totals may not sum.

Source:

Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

Heads of Government Summit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* Government officials and *(b)* special advisers attended the Heads of Government Summit held on 5 April. [211784]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

76 Government officials, which included six special advisers and a number of support staff, were accredited prior to the summit.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* people and *(b)* nights accommodation were booked by Government officials at The Grove in connection with the Heads of Government Summit held on 5 April 2008. [211678]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Individual delegations were responsible for booking their own accommodation. 10 Government officials stayed at The Grove for the night of 4 April.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property. [211927]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is not marketing any residential property and no home information packs have been commissioned.

Life Expectancy: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Cleethorpes, (ii) Great Grimsby, (iii) Brigg and Goole and (iv) Scunthorpe in (A) 1995, (B) 2005 and (C) at the latest date for which figures are available. [211975]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of average life expectancy for (a) men and (b) women in (i) Cleethorpes, (ii) Great Grimsby, (iii) Brigg and Goole and (iv) Scunthorpe in (A) 1995, (B) 2005 and (C) at the latest date for which figures are available. (211975)

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2004-06, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency level are not readily available.

Lord Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many freedom of information requests relating to assurances given by Richard Ashcroft on his residency status prior to his elevation to the peerage *(a)* have received refusals to supply the requested information, *(b)* are, or have been, subject to internal Cabinet Office review and *(c)* have been referred to the Information Commissioner. [186626]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has received three requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the assurances given by The Lord Ashcroft on his residency status prior to his elevation to the peerage. The requested information has been refused in all three cases, two of which are now the subject of an internal review. Information about cases referred to the Information Commissioner is not a matter for the Cabinet Office.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212110]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics and London on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5-6W.

Skin Cancer

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of skin cancers were diagnosed in each of the last five years. [212242]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of skin cancers were diagnosed in each of the last five years. [212242]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for the years 2001 to 2005 are in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], by sex, England, 2001-05

	Male	*Female*
2001	2,785	3,580
2002	2,922	3,693
2003	3,044	3,830
2004	3,307	4,056
2005	3,663	4,362

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source

Office for National Statistics

Television: Prime Minister

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) from what budget the cost of the television licence fee for the Prime Minister's official residence is met; [211595]

(2) whether cable or satellite television is provided in the Prime Minister's official residence in Downing street at public expense. [211645]

Phil Hope: There is no cost to the public purse.

TREASURY

Biofuels: Subsidies

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on subsidies for biofuel production in the UK in each of the last three years. [211878]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Over the last three years, the Government's main support for the production of biofuels has been in the form of the 20 pence per litre duty rate reduction for biodiesel and bioethanol. Since April 2008, support has been focused through the renewable transport fuel obligation. This support has been available to both domestic and imported biofuels and information is not available on the amount spent on each category.

Farmers can receive the single payment for biofuel crops grown on set-aside and non set-aside land. However, as data on the end use of arable crops are not collected, it is not possible to give the amount spent specifically on biofuel crops.

Farmers can also claim the EU's €45/ha energy aid payment where energy crops are grown on non set-aside land with a contract for energy end use. However, this does not differentiate between crops grown for biofuels or the generation of heat and power. The cost of this support for the last three years is as follows:

£

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*
2005	2,510,221	856	116,492
2006	4,163,214	2,028	265,902
2007	3,822,057	[1]4,968	[1]236,084

[1] There are a few claims still to be processed.

Capital grants have also been provided by the Regional Development Agencies for the construction of processing plants.

Corporation Tax: Tax Avoidance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of corporate tax avoided in the last year for which figures are available. [212343]

Jane Kennedy: In March 2008 HMRC released details of analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the decade; see

www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/measuring-tax-gap.pdf.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212514]

Angela Eagle: We do not collect this information centrally.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212315]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has commissioned no independent inquiries in the last five years.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212471]

Angela Eagle: The information is detailed in the following table:

Department	*Trades Union*
HM Treasury	First Division Association (FDA) and Public and Commercial Services (PCS)
OGC	PCS and Prospect
Valuation Office Agency	PCS and Prospect
HMRC	PCS and the Association of Revenue and Customs (ARC). PCS represents staff at all departmental grades. ARC represents staff in Grade 7 and above and in the Fast Stream Development Programme
NS&I	PCS
Debt Management Office (DMO)	None. DMO do not recognise Union membership
OGCBS	PCS, Prospect
Royal Mint	Unite, Prospect, PCS
Government Actuary Department	Prospect and PCS

Export Credits Guarantee Dept: Sustainable Development

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Export Credits Guarantee Department is taking to promote environmental sustainability. [210846]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

In its statement of business principles, published in December 2000, ECGD stated that its activities would

> "take into account the Government's international policies, including those on sustainable development, environment, human rights, good governance and trade".

ECGD set out in its case impact analysis process (CIAP) how it would assess the environmental and social impacts of the goods or services to be exported and the overseas projects for which it has received applications for support. This document describes ECGD's approach to assessing those impacts and states that projects which comply with the relevant international standards will normally be considered to be acceptable on environmental and social impact grounds.

In the 'Sustainable Development and Human Rights' section of its statement of business principles, ECGD stated that it would:

> "press for the establishment of a multilateral framework of common guidelines for assessing environmental and social issues related to project implementation".

ECGD played an instrumental role in securing agreement within the OECD in 2004 to the OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits (the Common Approaches). This recommends that OECD members, before taking decisions on officially supported export credits, should apply common approaches for identifying and evaluating the environmental impacts of projects and existing operations that benefit from officially supported export credits. The text of the Common Approaches was revised in June 2007; this brought the OECD recommendation closer into line with ECGD's existing practices.

In 2006, ECGD was also instrumental in obtaining agreement at the OECD on improvements in the terms under which OECD export credit agencies can provide support for exports to renewable energy projects.

The texts of ECGD's business principles and of its CIAP are available through ECGD's website:

> www.ecgd.gov.uk.

The text of the 2007 Common Approaches is available from the OECD at:

> http://webdomino1.oecd.org/olis/2007doc.nsf//Linkto/tad-ecg(2007)9.

Financial Services Authority: Publications

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* policy papers and *(b)* consultation papers have been issued by the Financial Services Authority in each of the last 10 years. [213107]

Kitty Ussher: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the Chief Executive of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue she raises.

Foreign Relations: India

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made establishing an Indo-British economic and financial dialogue on bilateral and global issues since the joint declaration with India of 20 September 2004. [212172]

Yvette Cooper: The first meeting of the UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue, led by then Chancellor of the Exchequer my right hon. Friend the Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowden Heath and Indian Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, was held in New Delhi, India on 18 January 2007.

In the meeting, Ministers and officials from both sides discussed issues on the current global economic situation, financial services, climate change, and using public-private partnership to enhance infrastructure investment.

A further meeting of the UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue was held at officials level on 27 September 2007 in London. In addition to the topics covered in the January ministerial meeting, development and financial inclusion issues were also discussed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer held a bilateral meeting with Minister Chidambaram in parallel to the Economic and Financial Dialogue.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will host the next round of the UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue in London in July 2008.

Income Tax: Tax Collection

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of uncollected income tax in the last year for which figures are available. [212344]

Jane Kennedy: Details of the amounts of income tax due from taxpayers or traders in respect of established liabilities for which payment had not been received by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as at 31 March 2007 are published in the Department's 2006-07 annual accounts and are available on the HMRC website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-06-07-acc.pdf.

Oil: Commodity Markets

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the trading of oil using unregulated procedures in London and New York futures exchanges. [213167]

Kitty Ussher: Trading on the London futures exchanges is always regulated. Regulation of UK exchanges on which oil and other commodity derivatives are traded is the responsibility of the FSA in the UK and, where appropriate, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in America should the exchange have applied to offer its services there too.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had various discussions with international counterparts in recent months regarding the drivers of oil prices, including at the G8 Finance Ministers Meeting on 14 June in Osaka, and at previous G7 Finance Ministers Meetings in February and April 2008. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the quantity of oil traded on the Intercontinental Futures Exchange that is *(a)* regulated and *(b)* traded using processes which are not regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [213168]

Kitty Ussher: ICE Futures Europe is a fully regulated exchange, regulated by the FSA as a recognised investment exchange, as set out in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA"). All trading on ICE Futures Europe is therefore regulated by the FSA because it is taking place on a regulated market.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority on the operation of the Intercontinental Futures Exchange in relation to oil trading; and if he will make a statement. [213169]

Kitty Ussher: Responsibility for the monitoring of the operation of ICE Futures Europe in relation to oil trading is a matter for the FSA. The FSA is independent of Government.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulatory powers the Financial Services Authority has in relation to oil trading on the Intercontinental Futures Exchange. [213170]

Kitty Ussher: ICE Futures Europe is a fully regulated exchange, regulated by the FSA as a recognised investment exchange, as set out in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA"). The FSA therefore has access to all the normal supervisory tools that it can apply to recognised investment exchanges in the UK.

Oil: Prices

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the effect on global oil prices of fuel subsidies in developing countries. [213339]

Kitty Ussher: HM Treasury has made no estimate of the effect of fuel subsidies in developing countries on global oil prices. Using 2005 data, the International Energy Agency has estimated that global energy consumption subsidies are likely to be in the magnitude of US$250 billion per year. As highlighted in the June 2008 Treasury paper 'Global Commodities: a long-term vision for stable, secure and sustainable global markets', subsidies inhibit the automatic stabilisation that should occur through changes in consumption as a result of price movements, while resulting in deterioration of Government fiscal positions.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the anticipated savings from the proposed review of HM Revenue and Customs office space in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England. [212596]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is reviewing all its accommodation so that it is aligned to future business needs and represents best value to the taxpayer. On 11 June 2008, the Department issued proposals for all its offices in Cornwall as well as many other locations throughout the United Kingdom. Consultation on these proposals runs until 6 August, and it is hoped that decisions will be announced before the end of the year.

In the event that all these proposals were implemented, HMRC estimates that the resulting estates running costs savings from Cornwall would be approximately £640,000 per annum by 2011-12 compared with £91,000,000 for England as a whole.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account was taken of the Government's policy to locate civil servants outside major cities in determining the closure of local tax offices and centralisation of services in Scotland. [212913]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is restructuring its business and estate across the whole of the UK in order to achieve business efficiencies and customer service improvements, and release surplus accommodation. Three quarters of its staff already work in and around the major urban centres, and most of its business streams can operate more effectively by consolidating more of their work in fewer locations. In its restructuring plans HMRC is taking account of its specific commitments under the government relocation programme to relocate jobs away from London and the South East.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the possible effects of the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland on the payment and administration of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [212944]

Jane Kennedy: The payment and administration of most benefits is a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions. The only benefit payment HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for is child benefit. HMRC is also responsible for tax credits administration.

HMRC has a network of Enquiry Centres offering face to face advice to HMRC customers including tax credits claimants. If it is decided to close any building housing an Enquiry Centre, those services will continue to be provided, if not from the current building then from one nearby. There is therefore no reason why the proposed closure of any HMRC offices in Scotland should have any effect on the payment or administration either of child benefit or of tax credits.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were available to carry out face-to-face interviews in each HM Revenue and Customs office in Wales in each of the last five years. [212170]

Jane Kennedy: There is no central record of the information requested going back over the last five years. HM Revenue and Customs' inquiry centres are the main routes for face to face advice, but other business areas also carry out face to face interviews. The numbers of staff from other areas that were available to carry out face to face interviews in Wales could not be established without incurring disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at which locations HM Revenue and Customs provide public enquiry services in Scotland. [212915]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs provide face to face public Enquiry Centres at the following locations in Scotland.

Aberdeen
Ayr
Buckie
Coatbridge
Dumbarton
Dumfries
Dundee
Dunfermline
Dunoon
East Kilbride
Edinburgh Elgin
Falkirk
Galashiels
Glasgow
Glenrothes
Greenock
Hamilton
Hawick
Inverness
Irvine
Kirkcaldy
Livingstone
Motherwell
Paisley
Perth
Peterhead
Rothesay
Stirling
Wick.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the value of HM Revenue and Customs property holdings in Scotland, broken down by site. [212916]

Jane Kennedy: Through the grant of the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) contract, the vast majority of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) property holdings were transferred to Mapeley on 2 April 2001. As a result of this HMRC no longer undertakes formal property valuation appraisals of its property holdings and therefore does not have a recent estimate of the value of such holdings in Scotland.

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will arrange for a reply to be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 6 May 2008 to the Tax Credit Office in Preston on two constituents, reference: NE505332A. [213020]

Jane Kennedy: The Tax Credit Office expect to be able to reply to my hon. Friend this week. They apologise for the delay in doing so.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the cost of implementing its plans for a geographical information system. [212737]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the previous answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 887W.

Wastes: Exports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records HM Revenue and Customs keeps of the amount of waste exported to countries outside the United Kingdom. [211931]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' records of exports from the UK to countries outside the European Community identify goods by a commodity code of up to eight digits. There is no single commodity code in the UK Integrated Tariff for waste as defined by Article 1(1)a of Council Directive 2006/12/EC. Exporters of waste may declare waste materials or goods under a large number of commodity codes according, in some cases, to the material or goods in their original form. HMRC records will include statistical information relating to each commodity code. Some commodity code headings such as metals have specific codes for waste and scrap but in others the code would not distinguish between commodities in their original or waste forms.

HMRC records also include any shipments of waste to other EU member states by any businesses who are required to submit information to HMRC under EC Regulation 638/2004 (the Intrastat system). The same commodity codes as for non-EU trade apply.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid to recipients of tax credits in Islwyn constituency in the last 12 months. [212689]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2006-07, which are our latest statistics available, are produced in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis 2006-07". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what timetable he has set for making a decision on the application to build a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth; and if he will make a statement; [210704]

(2) what representations he has received on the proposed new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth since February 2008; what response was given in each case; and if he will make a statement. [210705]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received some thousands of representations, most before February 2008 but some afterwards. Individual responses are not sent to each but they will be taken into account by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, before he takes his decision on the application. There is no timetable set for this decision taking.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to strengthen co-ordination and communication across Government Departments in an attempt to reduce fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [211939]

Malcolm Wicks: Action to tackle fuel poverty cuts across a number of Departments, and is jointly led by DEFRA and BERR.

Departments already work closely together, as witnessed by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations' annual report on the UK's Fuel Poverty Strategy, which sets out the action taken to alleviate fuel poverty across the UK.

The inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty provides a forum for the co-ordination of action to tackle fuel poverty. A meeting of this group is due to be convened.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department and its predecessor have submitted in the last 24 months. [210851]

Mr. Thomas: The Department and its predecessor made no planning applications or licensing applications in the last 24 months.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* publish the respective URLs of each of the documents published to coincide with his Department's nuclear investors conference on 12 June 2008. [212608]

Malcolm Wicks: I have placed in the Library and on my Department's website copies of the leaflet "New nuclear—creating our low carbon future—investing in the UK" and of our paper "Strategic Siting Assessment—Preview of Nominations and Assessment Process, Draft Exclusionary and Discretionary Criteria and Indicative Timeline". The URLs for these documents are

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46390.pdf

and

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46596.pdf

Energy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to paragraph 4.34 of Budget 2008, how much of the £150 million expenditure pledged by the major energy suppliers will be contributed by each supplier. [209910]

Malcolm Wicks: The individual allocations have been calculated by reference to each company's market share based on customer account numbers. Each supplier has agreed to pay a contribution per customer account. The contribution per customer account is then multiplied by the number of customer accounts "owned" by a supplier to arrive at each supplier's contribution.

A breakdown of suppliers' individual contributions cannot be made available as it contains commercially sensitive information and therefore remains confidential between the Department and the energy supplier.

Energy Supply

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W, on energy: consumption, what the UK's total *(a)* energy consumption and *(b)* electricity requirement was in each of the last 36 months for which figures are available. [213262]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is as follows:

	Total inland energy consumption on a primary fuel input basis (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	*Consumption of electricity (TWh)*
2005		
April	20.0	29.72
May	17.8	27.77
June	16.5	26.69
July	15.8	25.84
August	15.8	27.14
September	16.8	26.89
October	17.9	30.50
November	22.3	31.51
December	23.7	33.03
2006		
January	23.8	33.34
February	22.3	31.29
March	24.5	32.98
April	19.0	28.09
May	18.1	28.06
June	15.6	26.51
July	15.9	26.81
August	15.9	26.70
September	15.8	26.96
October	17.5	29.11
November	21.3	30.97
December	22.5	32.10
2007		
January	22.7	32.57
February	20.2	29.05
March	21.3	31.33
April	17.4	27.27
May	17.9	27.76
June	15.6	26.69
July	16.0	26.46
August	16.1	26.10
September	16.3	26.85
October	18.6	30.11
November	20.9	32.02
December	22.9	33.87
2008		
January	22.4	33.49
February	20.7	30.56
March	21.2	31.66

Source:
Monthly Tables 1.2 and 5.5 on the BERR Energy website
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/et1_2.xls
and
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/et5_5.xls

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fair Trade products. [211567]

Mr. Thomas: Over the last three financial years, my Department has a recorded spend of approximately £1 million each year on refreshments for official meetings and engagements. This spend was through our contracted service provider. It is not possible to separate the spend relating to fair trade products.

This figure also includes refreshments for meetings booked by external bodies, including other Government Departments, using our conference facilities. It is not possible to separate this spend from that of BERR's, although we do recover these costs.

Financial Reporting Council

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce legislative proposals to impose on the Financial Reporting Council a duty of care towards those directly affected by the failure of firms to meet standards of corporate reporting and governance. [209758]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have no such plans.

Company law imposes statutory responsibilities and sanctions on companies and directors in respect of a range of corporate reporting and governance requirements.

Fuels: Industrial Action

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will issue guidance to emergency planning departments on the provision of fuel to essential users during strikes by fuel supply drivers; and what contingency plans emergency planning departments have established to deal with fuel shortages resulting from industrial action. [212158]

Malcolm Wicks: Contingency plans are in place at local level to deal with fuel shortages resulting from events such as industrial action. The National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F) provides guidance to those responsible for emergency planning on the provision of fuel to essential users such as the emergency services in the event of a significant disruption to fuel supplies. The NEP-F was not utilised during the industrial action involving Shell, Hoyer and Unite.

G8

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proposals the United Kingdom plans to put to the meeting of G8 energy ministers on 6th June. [209156]

Malcolm Wicks: On 8 June 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended the G8 Energy Ministers' meetings at Aomori in Japan. This was the first ever meeting of G8 Energy Ministers with their counterparts from China, India and the Republic of Korea. Discussion covered a wide range of issues relating to world energy security and combating global climate change.

I am placing a copy of the statements issued at the end of the meeting in the Libraries of the House.

The main outcomes were:

> A call for enhanced dialogue and cooperation between oil producers and consumers.
>
> Recognition that open, transparent markets and fair, effective and efficient regulation are critical to reducing uncertainties and promoting investment.
>
> Affirmation by the participant countries of the need to maximise investment in their own domestic oil production, coupled with a call on other oil producers to increase investment to keep markets well supplied in response to rising world demand.
>
> Establishment of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation (IPEEC) a groundbreaking co-operation between the G8, China, India and the Republic of Korea (membership is also open to other countries).
>
> An undertaking to accelerate efficient and lower carbon technology research, development and demonstration. G8 commitment to implementation of the International Energy Agency(IEA)'s 25 recommendations for promoting energy efficiency.
>
> G8 support for the launch of 20 large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects globally by 2010 with a view to supporting technology development and cost reduction for the beginning of the broad deployment of CCS by 2020.

A number of these agreements result from the IEA's G8 Gleneagles work programme, which was developed and agreed during the UK's G8 presidency. The full conclusions of the agency's work will be reported to the G8 summit in Hokkaido next month.

International Energy Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what involvement the United Kingdom had in the International Energy Forum held in Rome in April. [211945]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK played a full part in the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Rome in April. It was involved in the preparations for the event in its role as a member of the executive board of the IEF Secretariat. Then I led the UK delegation to the forum itself, where I chaired one of the four main sessions of the event on the topic 'Towards a Sustainable Energy Future'. I held bilateral discussions with other Energy Ministers and gave a number of media interviews.

We were very pleased with the outcome of the forum and its main conclusions which were:

> To call on relevant organisations to explore the understanding of energy market fundamentals and the impact of financial markets;
>
> To ask the IEF Secretariat to prepare a report focusing on actions to remove key uncertainty factors holding back energy investment;
>
> To promote increased cooperation between international oil companies (IOCs), national oil companies (NOCs) and service companies
>
> To encourage renewed technology transfer and collaboration between producing and consuming countries;
>
> To reaffirm support for the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) and the importance of increasing transparency in the oil market.

Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments his Department has made to Irwin Mitchell solicitors for services provided to coal health claimants in the last 10 years. [211677]

Malcolm Wicks: The payments made to Irwin Mitchell solicitors for representing claimants under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger claims under the Coal Health Compensation schemes is shown in the following table as at 15 June 2008.

	£ million
	Costs paid to Irwin Mitchell
COPD	11.8
VWF	3.5
Total	15.3

Irwin Mitchell solicitors were also paid £7.9 million for their role on the co-ordinating group of claimants' solicitors including trial costs.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grant funding is available to businesses under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in 2008-09. [212348]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP), with an £86 million budget, around £30 million has been allocated to 6,300 projects, including £6.5 million to 154 projects in the private sector. Although all funding streams for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have now closed to new applicants, we are working closely with the Carbon Trust on a number of private sector projects to raise awareness of the potential for combining microgeneration with energy efficiency to develop low carbon buildings. Further details are available at

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

Support is available to businesses through the renewables obligation (RO) , the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation. All eligible renewable electricity generation installations receive renewable obligation certificates (ROCs). We have announced that under proposed reforms to the RO, microgenerators will be able to claim 2 ROCs for every 1MWh of renewable electricity generated. When these changes are introduced the support that microgeneration installations receive from the RO will double to the highest level available.

Advice is available from a number of sources, including the Carbon Trust who provides site surveys to organisations, including SMEs, looking to reduce their energy demand, save money and manage their carbon emissions more efficiently. Further details are available at www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/sme_toolkit.htm. Further assistance is available through Business Link at www.businesslink.gov.uk and Regional Development Agencies at

www.englandsrdas.com.

The Renewable Energy Strategy consultation due in the summer will include considerations of the role that microgeneration and distributed energy will play going forward. This will consider a range of possible initiatives such as financial or regulatory instruments, voluntary guidance and providing better information to business and consumers.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of grant funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme went to public sector projects in 2007. [212365]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme 10 per cent. of the £86 million budget was committed to public sector projects in 2007.

Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to begin recruitment to the new Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance (NLFA) Board; in which publications he plans to place advertisements; what budget has been allocated for the recruitment of NLFA Board members; and what per diem rate will be paid to Board members. [212606]

Malcolm Wicks: We intend to start advertising for the chair and members of the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board before the end of June, and advertisements will be placed in publications that will attract candidates with the level of experience and skills required. The budget will be affected by the choice of publications, which has not yet been finalised. A candidate information pack will be available shortly containing details of the recruitment process, along with remuneration information.

Offshore Drilling: Oil

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether permission is required for exploratory drilling for oil or other minerals within *(a)* three miles, *(b)* six miles or *(c)* 200 miles or the median line off the coast of the UK; [208895]

(2) when exploratory drilling last took place for *(a)* oil, *(b)* other sources of energy and *(c)* minerals off the coast of (i) the Isles of Scilly, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) South West England, and in the wider Western Approaches and Celtic Sea; [208896]

(3) what records he holds of exploratory drilling for *(a)* oil, *(b)* other sources of energy and *(c)* minerals within 200 miles or the median line from the coast of (i) the Isles of Scilly, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) South West England; [208897]

(4) what *(a)* records and *(b)* maps his Department holds of (i) oil, (ii) other sources of energy and (iii) other mineral resources identified within 200 miles or the median line off the coast of the UK. [208898]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department holds, or has access to, records of all UK drilling activity to search for or get petroleum. It also holds maps of all producing oil and gas fields on the UK Continental Shelf and onshore, and details of UK offshore wind farm locations. Records or maps are not held by my Department for other mineral deposits.

The following drilling activity has taken place for oil and gas off the coasts of (i) the Isles of Scilly, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) South West England, in the area out to the respective median lines and (iv) in the wider Western Approaches and Celtic sea:

Area	*Location*	*Block/well number(s)*	*Operator*	*Date*
(i)	Isles of Scilly	83/24- 1	D. Energy[1]	1977
		86/18- 1	BP	1979
		85/28- 1A	BP	1982
		86/17-1	Murphy	1983
(ii)	S. Cornwall	87/14- 1	D. Energy[1]	1977
		87/16- 1	D. Energy[1]	1977
		88/02-1	D. Energy[1]	1977
		87/12- 1A	BP	1979
(ii)	N. Cornwall	93/02- 1	BP	1974
		93/06- 1	BP	1977
		93/02- 2	BP	1986
		93/02 - 3	BP	1989
(iii)	South Western Approaches	72/10- 1A	BP	1979
		73/07- 1	Conoco	1981
		74/01- 1A	BG	1982
		73/08- 1	Chevron	1982
		73/12- 1A	Lasmo	1982
		73/01- 1A	BP	1982
		73/02- 1	A. Hess	1983

Area	*Location*	*Block/well number(s)*	*Operator*	*Date*
		73/05- 1	BP	1983
		73/04- 1	Chevron	1983
		73/13- 1	Murphy	1983
		73/06- 1	BP	1986
		73/14-1	Murphy	1986
(iv)	Wider Western Approaches and Celtic sea	102/28- 1	Shell	1973
		103/18- 1	Shell	1976
		103/21- 1	BP	1976
		102/29- 1	Conoco	1977
		103/02- 1	Texaco	1977
		102/28-2	Conoco	1991
		103/01- 1	Marathon	1994
		103/01a-2	Marathon	2005

[1] Drilled on behalf of the (then) Department of Energy

No records are held by my Department for drilling activity for other sources of energy and minerals.

Under the terms of the Petroleum Act 1998, written permission from the Secretary of State is required for all exploration drilling in UK, apart from exploration for coal onshore and within the UK's territorial waters. This requires the written consent of our non-departmental public body, the Coal Authority.

I am advised by the Coal Authority that identified coal deposits lie off the coast of the UK in the Firth of Forth, North East England, Yorkshire and East Anglia, Kent, North and South Wales, the Irish sea and the North West of England. These have been mined in certain areas and explored in others to varying degrees and the Coal Authority and the British Geological Survey hold records of past mining and exploration works.

In addition coal and lignite (brown coal) occurs in basins in the South Celtic sea and St George's Channel off the coasts of South West England but the Coal Authority do not hold any records of exploratory drilling into these deposits.

Overseas Trade: China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department work on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and China; and how many in his predecessor Department did so in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2006. [209100]

Mr. Thomas: There are currently seven full-time equivalent positions working on trade promotion with China in UK Trade and Investment's China Markets Unit based in London.

Figures for staff in the unit for previous years are as follows:

	Number
2007	7
2006	6
2005	7

In addition there are, and have been historically, a significant number of officials within BERR, UKTI and the former DTI who deal with trade promotion with China as part of their broader responsibilities. This information is not held centrally though, and to establish proportionate full-time equivalent figures would entail disproportionate costs.

70.75 full-time equivalent staff based in the British embassy and consulates general in China work on trade promotion with China. In addition, since 2007, 28 full-time equivalent staff of the China Britain Business Council, based in the UK and China, have delivered, on behalf of UKTI, the majority of trade services in respect of China.

Historical data for previous years would require information from a number of sources, some of which are not held centrally. Such information may be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Petrol Alternatives

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to develop viable alternative fuels; and if he will make a statement. [210756]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The UK needs a diverse mix of low-carbon energy sources to contribute to our energy and climate change goals. The Energy White Paper set out the Government's policy to tackling our key challenges and the guiding principle of market access to all the options available so we can have a diverse and increasingly low carbon energy mix, enabling us to respond to the rapidly changing challenges we will face in the future.

The challenge of moving towards a lower carbon economy requires us to develop a portfolio of low carbon energy technologies such as carbon abatement technologies, hydrogen and fuel cells, nuclear power and renewables. On 19 November 2007, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the Government competition for a full scale demonstration of carbon, capture and storage technologies on a coal fired power plant and on 10 January my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State invited companies to bring forward proposals to build new nuclear power stations. In the summer the Government will launch a consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our share of the EU 2020 renewables target.

Public sector funding for low carbon technology innovation is being delivered through the Research Councils, the Technology Strategy Board, Energy Technologies Institute and the Environmental Transformation Fund. These bodies work closely together to ensure that funding activities are complementary and together effectively supports a portfolio of technologies.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on research into alternative energies in each of the last 10 years. [210757]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The Department and Research Council expenditure on research into alternative energies since 1996-97 is set out as follows. The technologies included are bioenergy, hydrogen, solar/PV, wave and tidal and wind.

BERR Alternative Energy research spend

	Total (£000)
1997-98	4,448
1998-99	3,334
1999-2000	3,914
2000-01	3,954
2001-02	5,217
2002-03	10,495
2003-04	11,234
2004-05	5,673
2005-06	5,453
2006-07	4,539

The Research Council spend, which includes fusion

	Total (£000)
1997-98	23,603
1998-99	21,202
1999-2000	21,890
2000-01	25,334
2001-02	24,677
2002-03	26,018
2003-04	27,942
2004-05	34,986
2005-06	35,455
2006-07	43,779

In addition, the Research Councils have supported further research relating to energy in the work of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, which has some £15.6 million funding from Research Councils over 2000 to 2009, and in the work of the UK Energy Research Centre which commenced operation in 2004, with a budget of £13.9 million for 2004 to 2009.

Renewable Energy: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the UK's renewable energy generation target is planned to be met from generation in Scotland; and what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the matter. [212641]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The European Commission's proposed target of 15 per cent. renewable energy in the UK by 2020 does not specify where in the UK renewables should be located. The Government will consult over the summer on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet the UK's share of the target.

We are working with all the devolved Administrations in developing our consultation.

Solar Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the potential of solar *(a)* hot water and *(b)* photovoltaics to contribute to the UK's share of the EU's 2020 renewable energy target; and if he will make a statement. [212370]

Malcolm Wicks: We will be assessing the contribution that different technologies, including solar thermal hot water and solar photovoltaics, can make to meeting the 2020 renewable energy targets through our renewable energy strategy consultation document that will be published in the summer.

Tidal Power: Environmental Impact Assessment

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish the strategic environmental assessment of sites for tidal stream generation in English and Welsh waters. [210745]

Malcolm Wicks: A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a requirement for all offshore commercial projects that form part of a plan or programme e.g. offshore wind farms. However, in order to design a suitable SEA for commercial marine renewable, adequate knowledge of pre-commercial marine renewables needs to be acquired. There are insufficient data available at present to test different scenarios under an SEA. Therefore, an SEA would be unlikely to provide much helpful information at this stage as it would be very difficult to predict impacts of marine renewable technologies prior to their deployment for demonstration. This position is set out in our "Guidance on Consenting Arrangements in England and Wales for a Pre-Commercial Demonstration Phase for Wave and Tidal Stream Energy Devices (Marine Renewables)" http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file15470.pdf . Once sufficient data becomes available from demonstration projects we will review the need to publish an SEA of sites for tidal stream generation. Completion of an SEA will be a pre-condition for the start of any plan or programme for a commercial phase and will be subject to full public consultation.

UK Trade and Investment: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the procurement procedures followed by UKTI in respect of the contract recently awarded to Greater London Enterprise Ltd. [211658]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI's South East team awarded a grant, not a contract for services, to GLE Ltd. It was awarded following the publication of a bidding opportunity entitled "Offer of Grant Funding to Deliver UKTI Trade Services in the South East" issued 4 September 2007. All relevant procedures were correctly followed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what has been the cost to the public purse recently for the decision by UKTI to tender the contract hitherto held by WSX and subsequently awarded to Greater London Enterprise (GLE) Ltd, broken down by *(a)* the costs of the tender exercise itself and *(b)* changes to the annual costs resulting from the decision to award the contract to GLE Ltd. [211659]

Mr. Thomas: We do not separately identify non-direct costs associated with the award of grant. The value of grant offer for 2008-09 was £6,000 less than the value of the grant offer originally issued to WSX for the 2007-08 financial year.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reason the contract let by UKTI to Greater London Enterprise Ltd was signed while the internal appeal lodged by WSX was outstanding. [211660]

Mr. Thomas: Issues raised by WSX were addressed by UKTI: there was no outstanding internal appeal. The grant was awarded correctly.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date discussions first took place between UKTI and Greater London Enterprise (GLE) Ltd on the contract subsequently awarded to GLE Ltd; and on what date WSX was notified that the contract they held would be put out to tender. [211661]

Mr. Thomas: All registered bidders were given the opportunity to talk to UKTI's South East team to discuss the offer of grant funding. The first contact with GLE Ltd. was on 12 September 2007. WSX were notified about UKTI's intention to competitively bid the offer of grant funding on or before 6 July 2007.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment staff are employed *(a)* in each region in the UK and *(b)* in each country outside the UK. [210446]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment is not an employer in its own right. For the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments, BERR and the FCO. Overseas, most of the people working for UKTI are from the FCO; in the UK regional network people are mainly international trade advisers, drawn from the Government office network or people with business experience working for delivery partners to deliver UKTI services.

The following table shows the number of UKTI staff employed by each country, and are based on the latest consolidated and agreed figures with the FCO (including the transfer of Defence and Security organisation posts from MoD to the FCO). Full-time equivalents (FTEs) are rounded to nearest tenth.

Market	*Number*
Algeria	3.1
Angola	2.1
Argentina	7.5
Australia	33.1
Austria	4.2
Azerbaijan	2.1
Bahrain	4.4
Bangladesh	4.0
Barbados	3.3
Belgium	11.2
Bosnia	2.1
Brazil	38.2
Brunei	3.4
Bulgaria	4.4
Canada	27.5
Chile	7.0
China	92.3
Colombia	3.5
Costa Rica	1.6
Croatia	4.1
Cuba	2.2
Cyprus	4.2
Czech Republic	12.5
Denmark	11.1
Dominican Republic	2.1
Ecuador	2.2
Egypt	8.8
Estonia	4.6
Ethiopia	2.1
Finland	8.0
France	42.5
Germany	36.8
Ghana	4.2
Greece	8.2
Hong Kong	26.8
Hungary	13.4
Iceland	2.1
India	97.4
Indonesia	11.7
Iran	7.0
Iraq	1.4
Ireland	14.0
Israel	8.2
Italy	22.8
Jamaica	2.7
Japan	60.0

Market	*Number*
Jordan	6.2
Kazakhstan	4.9
Kenya	2.9
Kuwait	7.9
Latvia	3.2
Lebanon	3.1
Libya	6.0
Lithuania	3.2
Luxemburg	0.4
Malaysia	19.0
Mexico	28.1
Morocco	6.0
Mozambique	1.6
Netherlands	9.1
New Zealand	7.6
Nigeria	13.0
Norway	12.1
Occupied Palestine	1.3
Oman	[illegible].3
Pakistan	8.3
Panama	2.2
Peru	4.8
Philippines	8.7
Poland	17.2
Portugal	11.0
Qatar	7.0
Romania	9.3
Russia	24.1
Saudi Arabia	21.4
Senegal	0.3
Serbia	4.5
Singapore	16.4
Slovakia	4.1
Slovenia	3.2
South Africa	21.5
South Korea	18.9
Spain	30.3
Sri Lanka	3.9
Sudan	1.8
Sweden	12.0
Switzerland	13.6
Syria	4.1
Taiwan	16.3
Tanzania	2.3
Thailand	13.6
Trinidad and Tobago	1.8
Tunisia	2.6
Turkey	18.9
UAE	26.6
Uganda	1.1
Ukraine	2.5
USA	116.3
Venezuela	5.3
Vietnam	18.9
Yemen	0.2
Total	1,292.4

9

The UK regional breakdown of the (just under) 400 people funded by UKTI currently working in our regional teams is broadly as follows:

	Number
North East	34
East	45
London	40
North West	42
South East	57
South West	39
West Midlands	50
Yorkshire and the Humber	42
East Midlands	43
Total	392

Warm Home and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what files his Department holds on the Warm Home and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [210703]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department holds numerous files relating to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, including files relating to the Government's policies for tackling fuel poverty arising from duties under that Act.

Wind Power

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what rate of installation of off-shore wind turbines will be required to meet the Government's 25 gigawatt target for renewable power generation; and if he will make a statement. [212415]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not have a target for 25 GW of renewable power generation.

At the spring European Council in March 2007, EU Heads of Government agreed to a target to supply 20 per cent. of the EU's energy—heat, electricity and transport—from renewable sources by 2020. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make towards this EU target. The Commission has proposed a UK target that 15 per cent. of its energy should come from renewable sources but agreement has not yet been reached.

On 10 December 2007, the Government announced the launch of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on a draft plan for up to 25 GW (installed capacity) of new offshore wind farms by 2020. Depending on the results of the SEA and the magnitude of impacts identified, the Government take a decision on what the acceptable level of offshore wind development is.

Developers would then be required to bid for site leases through leasing competitions to be held by the Crown Estate and, if successful, conduct their own site evaluations and undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment before applying for the necessary development and environmental consents to build an offshore wind farm.

The number of offshore wind turbines therefore required up to 2020 will depend on the outcome of the SEA, a future decision by the Government on the level of offshore wind generation, and on the size of turbines selected by developers for specific sites.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many wind farm sites there were in the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years; what the location is of each; what total installed wind turbine capacity was in each such year; what forecast he has made of such capacity in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [212416]

Malcolm Wicks: According to the British Wind Energy Association, the total number of operational wind farms in the United Kingdom, at the end of each year was as follows:

	Number
1998	42
1999	47
2000	58
2001	66
2002	77
2003	85
2004	97
2005	118
2006	140
2007	169

There are currently 175 operational wind farms in the UK (June 2008).

The location and capacity of all wind of the 175 wind farms is:

Online	*Wind farm*	*Location*	*MW capacity*
pre 98	Novar	Highland	17
pre98	Llyn Alaw	Anglesey	20.4
pre 98	Harlock Hill	Cumbria	2.5
pre 98	Rheidol	Ceredigion	2.4
pre 98	Lynch Knoll	Gloucestershire	0.5
pre 98	Oldside	Cumbria	5.4
pre 98	Carno 'A' and 'B'	Powys	33.6
pre 98	Siddick	Cumbria	4.2
pre 98	Windy Standard	Dumfries and Galloway	21.6
pre 98	Trysglwyn	Gwynedd	5.6
pre 98	Owenreagh	Co Tyrone	5
pre 98	Slieve Rushen	Co Fermanagh	5
pre 98	Hagshaw Hill	South Lanarkshire	15.6
pre 98	Bessy Bell	Co Tyrone	5
pre 98	Elliot's Hill	Co Antrim	5
pre 98	Rigged Hill	Co Londonderry	5
pre 98	Four Burrows	Cornwall	4.5
pre 98	Dyffryn Brodyn	Ceredigion	5.5
pre 98	Bryn Titli	Powys	9.9
pre 98	St Breock	Cornwall	4.95
pre 98	Corkey	Co Antrim	5
pre 98	Royd Moor	South Yorkshire	6.5
pre 98	Kirkby Moor	Cumbria	4.8
pre 98	Taff Ely	Rhondda Cynon Taff	9
pre 98	Ovenden Moor	West Yorkshire	9.2
pre 98	Goonhilly Downs	Cornwall	5.6
pre 98	Cold Northcott	Cornwall	6.8
pre 98	Blyth Harbour	Northumberland	2.7
pre 98	Chelker Reservoir	North Yorkshire	1.2
pre 98	Blood Hill	Norfolk	2.25
pre 98	Coal Clough	Lancashire	9.6
pre 98	Llandinam P and L	Powys	30.9
pre 98	Rhyd-y-Groes	Ceredigion	7.2
pre 98	Garland Cross	Cornwall	6
pre 98	Delabole	Cornwall	4
pre 98	Black Scout Wind Farm	Lancashire	1.97
pre 98	Carhill Wind Turbine	Co Londonderry	0.23
pre 98	Paul's Hill extension	Moray	9
1998	Slievenahanaghan	Co Antrim	1
1998	Hafoty Ucha 1	Gwynedd	0.6
1998	Haverigg II	Cumbria	2.4
1998	Mynydd Gorddu	Ceredigion	10.2
1999	Winscales	Cumbria	1.98
1999	Eco Tech Centre	Norfolk	1.5

Online	*Wind farm*	*Location*	*MW capacity*
1999	Askam	Cumbria	4.62
1999	Beinn Ghlas	Argyll and Bute	8.4
1999	Royal Seaforth Dock	Merseyside	3.6
2000	Burra Dale	Shetland Islands	1.98
2000	Blyth Offshore	Northumberland	3.8
2000	Hare Hill	East Ayrshire	13
2000	Sigurd	Orkney	1.3
2000	Lambrigg	Cumbria	6.5
2000	Somerton	Norfolk	1.5
2000	Dun Law	Scottish Borders	17.6
2000	Kirkheaton	Northumberland	1.8
2000	Lowca	Cumbria	4.62
2000	Lendrum's Bridge Phase I	Co Tyrone	5.94
2000	Great Orton II	Cumbria	3.96
2001	Myres Hill	East Renfrewshire	1.9
2001	Beinn an Tuirc	Argyll and Bute	30
2001	High Hedleyhope	County Durham	2.25
2001	Tow Law	County Durham	2.3
2001	Deucheran Hill	Argyll and Bute	15
2001	Bears Down	Cornwall	9.6
2001	Sainsburys, Langlands Park	South Lanarkshire	0.6
2001	Parc Cynog	Carmarthenshire	3.6
2002	Hafoty Ucha 2 extension	Gwynedd	1.7
2002	Moel Maelogen	Conwy	2.6
2002	Tangy	Argyll and Bute	12.75
2002	Lendrum's Bridge Phase II	Co Tyrone	7.26
2002	Bowbeat	Scottish Borders	31.2
2002	Mablethorpe	Lincolnshire	1.2
2002	Blaen Bowi	Carmarthenshire	3.9
2002	Thorfinn, Burgar Hill	Orkney	2.75
2002	Cemmaes	Powys	15.3
2002	Out Newton	Humberside	9
2002	Bu Farm	Orkney	2.7
2003	High Volts (3Hs)	County Durham	8.25
2003	North Hoyle	Denbighshire	60
2003	Beaufort Court (RES Office)	Hertfordshire	0.225
2003	Swaffham Extension	Norfolk	1.8
2003	Altahullion Phase I	Co Londonderry	26
2003	Forss 1, Hill of Lybster	Highland	2.32
2003	Burra Dale Extension	Shetland Islands	1.7
2003	Mawla (Moel Maelogen)	Conwy	1.3
2004	Gigha Community	Highland	0.675
2004	Causeymire	Highland	48
2004	Bambers Farm	Lincolnshire	1.2
2004	Hare Hill (3Hs)	County Durham	5.5
2004	Castle Pill Farm	Pembrokeshire	0.5
2004	Cruach Mhor	Argyll and Bute	29.75
2004	Crystal Rig	Scottish Borders	50
2004	Holmside Hall (3Hs)	County Durham	5.5
2004	Ford Motors	London	3.6
2004	Scroby Sands	Norfolk	60
2004	Ardrossan	North Ayrshire	24
2004	Llangwyryfon	Ceredigion	9.35
2005	Nissan Motors Plant	Tyne and Wear	3.96
2005	Green Park	Berkshire	2
2005	Coldham	Cambridgeshire	16
2005	Kentish Flats	Kent	90
2005	Boulfruich	Highland	13
2005	Black Law A (Part of Black Law 1)	South Lanarkshire	97
2005	Tir Mostyn and Foel Goch	Denbighshire	21.25
2005	Glens of Foudland	Aberdeenshire	26
2005	Artfield Fell	Dumfries and Galloway	19.5

Online	*Wind farm*	*Location*	*MW capacity*
2005	Rothes (Cairn Uish)	Moray	50.6
2005	Cefn Croes (inc Devils Bridge, Bryn Du NFFO Contract)	Ceredigion	58.5
2005	Long Hill Road	Cambridgeshire	2
2005	Forest Moor	Devon	2.7
2005	Haverigg III	Cumbria	3.4
2005	Tappaghan Mountain	Co Fermanagh	19.5
2005	Winscales extension	Cumbria	6.8
2005	Antrim Area Hospital	Co Antrim	0.66
2005	Burray	Orkney	0.85
2005	The Abbey Group - Ramsey Site	Cambridgeshire	0.225
2005	Ness Point	Suffolk	2.75
2005	Spurness Wind Farm	Orkney	11
2006	North Pickenham Windfarm	Norfolk	14.4
2006	Bambers Farm II	Lincolnshire	4.8
2006	Eastman (Voridian)	Cumbria	4
2006	Black Law B (Part of Black Law 1)	South Lanarkshire	27.6
2006	Beinn Tharsuinn	Highland	30
2006	Caton Moor Repowering	Lancashire	16
2006	Barrow	Cumbria	90
2006	Gedney Marsh (Red House)	Lincolnshire	12
2006	Deeping St Nicholas	Lincolnshire	16
2006	Ffynnon Oer	Neath Port Talbot	32
2006	Wardlaw Wood (Dairy Community Windfarm)	North Ayrshire	18
2006	Farr Windfarm	Highland	92
2006	Michelin Tyre Factory	Dundee City	4
2006	Boyndie Airfield	Aberdeenshire	20
2006	Burton Wold Wind Farm	Northamptonshire	20
2006	Paul's Hill	Moray	55.2
2006	Mynydd Clogau	Powys	14.45
2006	Glass Moor	Cambridgeshire	16
2006	Hadyard Hill, Barr	South Ayrshire	120
2006	Findhorn Foundation	Moray	0.75
2006	Callagheen	Co Fermanagh	16.9
2006	Hafoty Ucha 3 extension	Gwynedd	0.85
2007	Ben Aketil	Highland	23
2007	McCains Foods	Cambridgeshire	9
2007	Greendykeside Wind Farm	South Lanarkshire	4
2007	Wolf Bog	Co Antrim	10
2007	Altahullion Phase II	Co Londonderry	11.7
2007	Stags Holt	Cambridgeshire	18
2007	Burbo Bank	Merseyside	90
2007	Craig Wind Farm	Dumfries and Galloway	8
2007	Wharrels Hill	Cumbria	10.4
2007	Bin Mountain	Co Tyrone	9
2007	Fintry (The FREE Turbine)	Stirling	2.5
2007	Bristol Port Wind Park Ltd	Gloucestershire	6
2007	Earlsburn	Stirling	35
2007	Forss, extension Hill Of Lybster	Highland	5.2
2007	Lough Hill Resubmission	Co Tyrone	7.8
2007	Beatrice	Offshore	10
2007	Hill of Balquhindachy	Aberdeenshire	0.85
2007	Hill of Eastertown	Aberdeenshire	1.7
2007	Crystal Rig Ia	Scottish Borders	12.5
2007	Wether Hill	Dumfries and Galloway	18.2
2007	Ransonmoor Farm	Cambridgeshire	10
2007	Dummuie	Aberdeenshire	10.4
2007	WWU High Pow	Cumbria	3.9
2007	Red Tile	Cambridgeshire	24
2007	WWA High Sharpley	County Durham	2.6
2007	Black Hill	Scottish Borders	28.6
2007	Braes O' Doune	Stirling	72
2007	WWB Burgar Hill	Orkney	5

Online	*Wind farm*	*Location*	*MW capacity*
2007	WWP Hameldon Hill	Lancashire	4.5
2008	Bessy Bell Extension	Co Tyrone	9
2008	Conisholme Fen Re-submission	Lincolnshire	16
2008	Minsca Farm	Dumfries and Galloway	36.8
2008	Slieve Rushen Repowering	Co Fermanagh	54
2008	Westmill	Oxfordshire	6.5
2008	Braich Ddu Farm	Gwynedd	4.5

Therefore, based on these figures, the installed capacity for the past 10 years is:

	Total (MW)
1998	314.8
1999	334.9
2000	396.9
2001	462.15
2002	552.51
2003	654.1
2004	892.18
2005	1,339.87
2006	1,964.82
2007	2,418.67

The Department does not produce forecasts for wind generation over the next 10 years. Scenarios on future growth of wind farms are being made as part of the renewables energy strategy consultation document which is due for publication later this summer and will appear on the BERR website.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for establishment of wind farm sites he *(a)* received, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* rejected in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [212434]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the beginning of June 2007:

(a) Three applications in respect of onshore wind farms (Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llaithddu and Llandinam) and three applications for offshore wind farms (Gunfleet Sands II, Ormonde and Humber Gateway) have been received by BERR. In addition, the Secretary of State has received the Inspector's report on the appeal in respect of a wind farm adjacent to the Alcan Smelter, Lynemouth. That case will be jointly determined with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

(b) Three applications for onshore wind farms (Fullabrook Down, Keadby and Tween Bridge) and three applications for offshore wind farms (Teesside, Walney and Gunfleet Sands II) have been granted consent by the Secretary of State.

(c) No applications have been refused consent by the Secretary of State. One application for an onshore wind farm (Orby Marsh) was withdrawn by the developer.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 June 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what air quality measurements are made across each London borough; and what the results of these measurements were in each of the last three years. [212346]

Jonathan Shaw: 10 sites in London are operated by the London boroughs and are affiliated to the national Automatic Urban and Rural Network. These 10 sites form part of the London Air Quality Network (LAQN), which is managed by the Environmental Research Group at King's College London. Hourly pollutant concentrations are measured and data collected from the individual sites are shown in the following table.

A further five sites in London are owned by DEFRA. Historical data can also be obtained from a further nine sites which closed in 2007 due to a restructuring of the national network. The data can be examined and downloaded from the National Air Quality Information Archive.

Parameters measured[1]	*Monitoring sites and data*
Carbon monoxide	Current sites: 10
Nitric oxide	
Nitrogen dioxide	Data availability: 1 April 1996 to current[2]
Nitrogen oxides as nitrogen dioxide	
Ozone	
PM$_{10}$ particulate matter (hourly measured)	
PM$_{2.5}$ particulate matter (hourly measured)	
Sulphur dioxide	

[1] Not all pollutants are measured at all sites.

[2] not all sites have monitored since 1996.

Data for around 80 additional sites operated by the London boroughs in London can be found on the London Air Quality Network Website.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* reports, *(b)* investigations and *(c)* prosecutions of offences under the (i) Protection of Badgers Act 1992, (ii) Zoo Licensing Act 1981, (iii) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (iv) Pet Animals Act 1951, (v) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (vi) Deer Act 1991 there were in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007. [212410]

Joan Ruddock: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against in 2006 at magistrates courts under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and the Deer Act 1991 are set out in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available in autumn 2008. Information on the number of prosecutions under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of reports and investigations carried out under these Acts is not collected centrally.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under selected wildlife offences[1]*, England and Wales, 2006*[2, 3, 4]

Act	*Proceeded against*
Protection of Badgers Act 1992	22
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	78
Pet Animals Act 1951	12
Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996	7
Deer Act 1991	1
Total	120

[1] Information on the number of prosecutions under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 is not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The data relating to offences under section 1 (Offences relating to birds) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the Metropolitan and West Midlands police force areas have been excluded from the table, whilst the Ministry of Justice investigate the accuracy of the information.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [212360]

Jonathan Shaw: My officials are in frequent contact with key stakeholders and the feedback we have received concerning the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 is very positive. Nevertheless, we would want to defer making any detailed assessment until details of convictions under the Act have been published.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females of each age group were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under each relevant section of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in 2007. [212362]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force on 6 April 2007 in England and 27 March 2007 in Wales.

Court proceedings data being collected by the Ministry of Justice for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [212409]

Jonathan Shaw: The following documents have been made in relation to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the "2006 Act"):

(a) Statutory instruments made by the Secretary of State

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (Commencement Order No1) (England) Order 2007;

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (Commencement Order No2 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) (England) Order 2007;

The Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007;

The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007;

The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008;

The Welfare of Animals (Miscellaneous Revocations) (England) Regulations 2007;

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

(b) Guidance

Explanatory Memorandum to the Animal Welfare Act 2006;

Explanatory Memorandum to the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007;

Explanatory Memorandum to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007;

Explanatory Memorandum to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008;

Explanatory Memorandum to the Welfare of Animals (Miscellaneous Revocations) (England) Regulations 2007;

Explanatory Memorandum to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

(c) My department is proposing to issue the following SI s and documents in 2009 pertinent to the 2006 Act:

A commencement order allowing s8(3)-(6) of the 2006 Act to come into force (provisions relating to the recording of animal fights); a cat welfare code; a dog welfare code; and an equine welfare code; In addition, it is proposed to issue the following consultation documents in 2009: draft proposals on regulating the welfare of racing greyhounds; a draft gamebird rearing code; a draft code on the private keeping of primates; and draft proposals on the transposition of EU legislation concerning the welfare of meat chickens.

Biofuels: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned or evaluated into the effect of growing biofuels on food prices. [212257]

Mr. Woolas: The Government-commissioned Gallagher Review is considering the impact of biofuels on food prices. Its findings will be published later this month.

In April 2008, DEFRA published a report which reviewed the existing research on the impact of biofuels on commodity and food prices. It is available on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to assist farmers in protecting their livestock from bovine tuberculosis. [212761]

Jonathan Shaw: Updated advice on husbandry best practice was produced last year by the bovine TB Husbandry Working Group - a partnership of key farming, veterinary and wildlife groups and Government. This free advice suggests some common sense, precautionary measures that farmers can take to help reduce the risk of bovine TB transmission between cattle and between cattle and badgers. We have also produced a CD-Rom for use by vets when giving guidance to farmers about protecting their livestock from the risk of TB.

This is in addition to a range of other cattle-based measures introduced in the last couple of years to tackle bovine TB such as the introduction of zero tolerance of overdue tests; pre-movement tests for cattle moving from high risk herds; and extension of the use of the gamma interferon test. We are also actively pursuing the future use of vaccination of either cattle or wildlife as a long term means of tackling bovine TB alongside current control measures.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government have taken to establish the extent of tuberculosis infection in wild animals; [212762]

(2) what steps the Government plan to take to reduce the number of wild animals infected by tuberculosis. [212763]

Jonathan Shaw: A considerable amount of research has been carried out by DEFRA into the prevalence of TB infection, both in relation to badgers and other wildlife species.

Results from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial show that badgers are the main wildlife reservoir and contribute to bovine TB (bTB) in cattle

The risk to cattle of infection from wild species other than badgers has been assessed through research carried out by the Central Science Laboratory (CSL). While small numbers of many mammalian species such as rats have been shown to able to be infected with bTB, there is no evidence that they can transmit the infection to other species.

Quantitative risk assessments commissioned by DEFRA demonstrate that the risk of cattle infection from deer is only likely to be significant if the prevalence of TB infection in deer is high.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to protect the public from wild animals infected with tuberculosis. [212764]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of Government departments (DEFRA, Department of Health, Food Standards Agency, Health Protection Agency, Health and Safety Executive) work together to protect the public from contracting infection caused by Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis). The potential risks to public health from exposure to wild animals infected with M. bovis are minimal, therefore no wildlife-specific public health protection measures are necessary. However, advice is available on the HPA website and from local animal health offices if people have concerns.

Climate Change: East of England

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on providing support for *(a)* dealing with the effects of climate change and *(b)* flood management in the East of England region; and if he will make a statement. [212943]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's overall policy on climate change adaptation and flood management is the same across all regions of England.

As part of the programme, we are also undertaking a UK wide assessment of the risks due to Climate Change. The risk assessment will employ experts from across a wide range of sectors likely to be impacted by climate change.

We have put in place a world leading resource, UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), to provide information and tools which can be used by organisations across the public, private and third sector, including local authorities, to help them adapt to both the risks and opportunities of a changing climate.

Coastal Areas: Environment Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards developing an adaptation toolkit on sustainable flood and coastal erosion on risk management approaches; and when the toolkit will be introduced. [212658]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have agreed to develop an adaptation toolkit to assist communities in adapting to change where constructing defences is not the most appropriate means of managing flood and coastal erosion risk. Up to £28 million of DEFRA's comprehensive spending review settlement has been made available to support the adaptation toolkit. Some parts of the toolkit are already in place—for example strengthened planning policy for flood risk areas. Others are forthcoming. The full range of policies will be published in spring 2009.

Cod: Fishing Quotas

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many cod avoidance plans he has negotiated with British fishing vessels; [209587]

(2) what plans he has to make extra days of fishing available to English fishing vessels which agree to a cod avoidance plan *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* in 2009. [209594]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA officials are currently discussing with the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, the two plans thus far submitted by the English fleet. However, I understand there are several more in the pipeline. The number of additional days available for this year for the vessels concerned, will depend on the outcome of those and subsequent discussions.

Scotland is not operating a scheme based on individual vessel plans, but will require all participating vessels to adhere to the same commitments in each separate gear category. Northern Ireland is still considering the nature of its scheme. No Welsh vessels have to date applied for the kilowatt (kW) day option.

For 2009, the number of days available to the respective fleets will depend on decisions yet to be taken in the context of the review of the cod recovery programme.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211768]

Jonathan Shaw: In total, Special Projects have spent £4,316,178.05 on office furniture between financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 inclusive.

Special Projects (now known as the Space Utilization Team) is a group within Estates Division set up to co-ordinate large scale personnel moves. Much of the furniture shown was procured in conjunction with the refurbishment of 3-8 Whitehall Place, Nobel House and Ashdown House.

Furniture expenditure

2004-05

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Storage Units	1,280	384,044.05
Desks	714	379,882.20
Swivel chairs	146	43,059.05
Pedestals	564	89,685.40
Desk Screens	302	56,813.60
Meeting Tables	186	78,242.07
Meeting Chairs	683	223,247.64
Breakout Furniture	27	8,498.77
Miscellaneous Items	2,125	147,032.44
Total	6,027	1,410,508.22

2005-06

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Storage Units	583	176,570.77
Desks	349	113,705.92
Swivel chairs	560	165,205
Pedestals	655	107,201.12
Desk Screens	621	151,139.37
Meeting Tables	231	87,535.15
Meeting Chairs	584	86,340.17
Breakout Furniture	455	159,296.87
Miscellaneous Items	713	67,968.15
Total	4,751	1,114,962.40

2006-07

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Storage Units	73	22,853.75
Desks	10	9,196
Swivel chairs	—	—
Pedestals	—	—
Desk Screens	26	4,800
Desk Screen Reduction	160	32,200.87

2006-07

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Meeting Chairs	—	—
Breakout Furniture	—	—
Miscellaneous Items	2	21,296.87
Total	271	90,347.49

2007-08

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Storage Units	67	29,607.65
Desks	4	4,172
Deli Bar	1	47,000
Desk Screens	52	4,640
Desk Screen Reduction	342	23,307.30
Meeting Tables	—	—
Meeting Chairs	—	—
Breakout Furniture	87	18,767.10
Miscellaneous Items	71	12,774.60
Total	624	140,268.65

2008-09

Item	*Number purchased*	*Cost, including VAT (£)*
Storage Units	150	29,560.65
Desks	1	2,950.42
Special Chair	1	743
Bed	1	679
Desk Power Units	5,000	115,650
Desk Screen Reduction	—	—
Meeting Chairs	—	—
Breakout Furniture	—	—
Miscellaneous Items	—	—
Total	5,153	149,583.07

Dogs

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which police forces did not respond to his Department's consultation on the *(a)* adequacy and *(b)* enforcement of legislation on dangerous dogs; and if he will make a statement; [210444]

(2) if he will place in the Library the full response from the Lancashire Constabulary to his consultation on dangerous dogs legislation. [210941]

Jonathan Shaw: These requests are currently being considered and I will write separately to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Flood Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors he considers when determining the relative priority of measures to deal with coastal flooding and inland flooding; and if he will make a statement. [212957]

Mr. Woolas: Capital works promoted by operating authorities have been prioritised according to the priority scoring system (PSS) which makes use of three main criteria: economics (based on benefit cost ratio); people (number of residential properties protected, risk and vulnerability); and environment (based on the area of habitat created or protected and heritage sites). The risk element of the people score recognised the differences between very fast onset of flooding (common in coastal areas) and slower rising flooding with longer warning times.

New outcome measures for flood and coastal erosion risk management have been developed to provide greater clarity on what policies and funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve. There are currently nine outcome measures, seven of which apply to both flood and coastal erosion risk, and two to flood risk only.

We are working with the Environment Agency to develop an effective prioritisation approach using the outcome measures and expect a revised system to be introduced for 2009-10. There was no differentiation between coastal and inland areas in setting the targets for the flood management outcome measures, but the funding allocations announced in March did include an underlying minimum allocation for coastal local authorities of £110 million over three years.

Flood Control: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has received requesting assistance in improving flood defences in Southbourne, Bournemouth. [212459]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has received one letter and the Environment Agency has received three letters on this issue from Hengistbury Residents Association.

Flood Control: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to improve working practices between the Environment Agency and local authorities to deal with *(a)* flooding and *(b)* drainage for Canvey Island; and if he will make a statement. [212956]

Mr. Woolas: Canvey Island has some of the best defences in the country with the sea walls and associated structures offering a standard of protection against sea flooding in excess of 1:1,000. Additionally, £6 million has recently been invested by the Environment Agency on new pumps to improve drainage on the Island.

Following the exceptionally heavy rainfall which occurred on Canvey Island over the bank holiday weekend, all organisations have assessed how their drainage structures performed. A meeting has been arranged for July, when all organisations with a drainage responsibility will be present to explore what measures can be taken to further reduce future flood risk.

Flood Control: Land Use

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish additional guidance on the role of land use management in controlling flood risk. [212659]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency led a project under the Government's strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management—"Making space for water"—to investigate the relationship between land management and flood risk.

The outputs of this project were published on DEFRA's website in February. These include reports on the role of land use and management in delivering flood risk, a review of existing mechanisms, options, recommendations for future work and an initial assessment of catchments sensitive to increased flood risk due to land use change.

DEFRA will shortly be publishing the results of a research project which analysed historical data sets to look for evidence of any connection between land use and management change and flood generation.

There are no further proposals to publish specific guidance on the role of land use management in controlling flood risk. However, as and when other Government guidance on land use and management is reviewed, further opportunities will be sought to encourage practices which help mitigate flood risk.

Floods

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the departmental research projects entitled *(a)* simulation of flood risk and non-structural flood management, *(b)* flood risk management strategies in European member states, *(c)* who benefits from flood management policies and *(d)* developing the evidence base for flood resilience were completed; and at what cost in each case. [211946]

Mr. Woolas: All of the named projects are currently in the final stages of completion and we anticipate publishing the technical reports in the near future.

Project title	*Project cost (£)*
(a) Simulation of flood risk and non-structural flood management	114,977
(b) Flood risk management strategies in European member states	42,466
(c) Who benefits from flood management policies	93,990
(d) Developing the evidence base for flood resilience	102,434

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the ability of people who have received grants under the Warm Front Scheme to continue to pay for their new heating equipment; whether the effects of recent changes in oil prices on the cost of fuel have been considered; and whether he plans to review the categories of persons entitled to grants. [213777]

Mr. Woolas: In view of both rising fuel prices and the need to reduce carbon emissions, Warm Front is currently piloting solar thermal systems to assess their suitability for integration into the scheme. If successful, it is anticipated that they could provide an alternative to oil systems for properties not connected to the gas network. We are currently considering further piloting of other lower carbon alternatives.

Warm Front is currently undergoing a value for money review by the National Audit Office (NAO). This study will include an assessment of the effectiveness of the scheme at targeting those most in need. NAO expect the report to be published in December 2008.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Warm Front Scheme against its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [213778]

Mr. Woolas: The National Audit Office (NAO) is currently performing a value for money study of Warm Front. This will provide an assessment of a variety of aspects of scheme delivery, including the effectiveness of the scheme at targeting those most in need, and the management of the scheme, including pricing, quality of service and customer satisfaction levels.

NAO expect to publish the report in December 2008.

Landfill

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was sent to landfill outside the local authority of origin in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority of reception. [212424]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

The table provides data on inter local authority movements of waste for disposal to landfill in 2006, which is the most current data set available. The data relate to all types of waste deposited in landfill, including inert, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

Environment Agency data come from site input returns provided by landfill operators. Providing information on the origin of waste is not mandatory. This is reflected in the 'not codeable' category, which shows the quantity of waste that does not have an identified origin.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212106]

Jonathan Shaw: No Ministers or officials from this Department will be attending the Beijing Olympic games in an official capacity.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government has allocated for areas that will host nuclear disposal facilities. [212889]

Mr. Woolas: As set out in the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper", this is a long term project. At this stage we cannot define the level or nature of benefits.

The level, coverage and the point at which funding is available will be considered in the future.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government spent in areas which host nuclear waste disposal sites in each year since the establishment of such sites. [212890]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently no facilities for ultimate disposal of higher activity radioactive waste in the UK.

That is why we are aiming to establish one.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government have to identify sites for the location of nuclear waste disposal facilities in the event that no applications to host such a facility are received. [212891]

Mr. Woolas: This is a matter we would determine in the future.

Sewers: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what improvements have been made to the resilience of water and sewerage infrastructure to hazards over the last 12 months. [212660]

Mr. Woolas: Measures to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure will require significant planning and investment, which will need to be made through the business planning process that companies are undertaking during the current periodic review of water price limits.

Ofwat and the Environment Agency are developing a framework for assessing critical asset resilience to flooding in order to advise all water companies on their business plans, and companies are expected to bring forward proposals to address this risk in their draft business plans which will be submitted to Ofwat in August.

In response to Sir Michael Pitt's interim report, the Government have undertaken a scoping study to assess the vulnerability of the Critical National Infrastructure to natural hazards.

Thames Barrier

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the design life of the Thames Barrier is; and how many times it has been raised to protect London from tidal surges in each year since it was commissioned. [212807]

Mr. Woolas: The Thames Barrier is closed to protect London from high water levels in the River Thames. These high water levels result from tidal surge conditions in combination with high freshwater flows following rainfall over the Thames catchment. The Barrier closures may be characterised as predominantly tidal influenced or predominantly rainfall/fluvial influenced. Since construction, the Thames Barrier has been closed to prevent flooding during the winter flood season (generally October to April) on 109 occasions as follows:

	Tidal	*Fluvial*	*Total*
1982-83	1	0	1
1983-84	0	0	0
1984-85	0	0	0
1985-86	0	1	1
1986-87	1	0	1
1987-88	0	0	0
1988-89	1	0	1
1989-90	1	3	4
1990-91	1	0	1
1991-92	1	0	1
1992-93	4	0	4
1993-94	3	4	7
1994-95	2	2	4
1995-96	4	0	4
1996-97	1	0	1
1997-98	1	0	1
1998-99	2	0	2
1999-2000	3	3	6
2000-01	16	8	24
2001-02	3	1	4
2002-03	8	12	20
2003-04	1	0	1
2004-05	4	0	4
2005-06	3	0	3
2006-07	8	0	8
2007-08 (to date)	5	1	6
Total	74	35	109

The Thames Barrier and associated defences currently provide London and most of the Thames Estuary with a flood defence standard of about 1:2000 years (0.05 per cent. risk of flooding in any given year).

It is expected that these defences will cope with rising tidal levels for many years to come.

However, with climate change and sea level rise, the level of protection will gradually decline, as was planned back at the original design stage of the barrier, to a 1:1000 year (or 0.1 per cent.) risk of flooding by the year 2030.

Through the Environment Agency's project "Thames Estuary 2100" we are already looking at flood risk management for the Thames Estuary for the next 100 years including a second barrier. This will give us detailed guidance on what needs to be done and when.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the decision of a local authority to become a pilot for the new scheme of charges for collection of household rubbish will be a matter for the full council or the executive of the council in a council with a cabinet model. [211381]

Joan Ruddock: It is for local authorities to determine their own decision-making processes, including for any decision on whether they wish to pilot a waste incentive scheme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210982]

Mr. Woodward: A copy of the Department's current chart of accounts has been placed in the Library. In the Northern Ireland Office, there is no difference between the chart of accounts and the resource account codes. Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208521]

Mr. Woodward: The Department (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) does not hold the spend data at the required level of detail to answer this question. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate she has made of the total cost of the 2012 London Olympic Games. [212759]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* In March 2007, I announced a funding package of £9.325 billion for the Games. In December I announced that within this, the Olympic Delivery Authority's budget was £6.090 billion including tax and £500 million of initial contingency and this remains unchanged. The remainder of the package covers security, community and elite sports and other non-ODA costs, together with a prudent contingency.

The recent National Audit Office report examined the progress made in preparing for the Games, finding that

> "...there is now a clear basis for tracking costs and work to keep the costs within the agreed £9.325 billion budget is continuing"

(National Audit Office report Preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Progress Report June 2008).

TRANSPORT

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what circumstances the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is permitted to reveal the details which it holds on individual citizens to third parties unrelated to the Department of Transport. [213012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) may disclose information held on its records where it is lawfully permitted to do so, and where the provisions of the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act may be met.

A full download of the driver and vehicle databases is provided daily to the National Police Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for inclusion on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Information held on the driver record (i.e. details of driver entitlement to drive, endorsements or photographic images) is released on a case by case basis to the other Government Departments only when DVLA is satisfied that data protection and legal obligations are met.

Information held on the vehicle register (including vehicle keeper details) may also be disclosed in the same circumstances. In addition, vehicle information may be disclosed under Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002. This regulation permits the release of vehicle information to the police, to local authorities investigating an offence or a decriminalised parking contravention and to anybody who can demonstrate 'reasonable cause' for that information. All requests are made on an individual, case by case basis.

The term 'reasonable cause' is not defined in the legislation. However, the following list details the circumstances that have previously been considered to be a 'reasonable cause'.

> safety recall by vehicle manufacturer to enable the manufacturer, or an agent acting on their behalf, to trace keepers to ensure that a vehicle is checked and any modifications are made;
>
> abandoned vehicles to help trace keepers who abandon their vehicles on private property outside the control of local authorities;
>
> minor hit and run incidents to help trace keepers of vehicles involved in minor hit and run incidents not warranting a full police investigation. Circumstances could include incidents of personal injury or damage to property;
>
> toll/road charges information may be released to help trace keepers of vehicles that have failed to pay road/tunnel/bridge charges;
>
> drive-offs to help trace keepers of vehicles that drive off without paying for goods/services. Circumstances could include incidents of failing to pay for petrol or repairs for a vehicle;
>
> unauthorised parking on private land to help landlords or their agents to trace keepers who obstruct access, contravene parking restrictions or trespass on private land;
>
> suspected fraud to establish keepers of vehicles where insurance claims have been received;
>
> investigations into suspected vehicle 'clocking' to confirm if a vehicle's recorded mileage is genuine;
>
> enforcement of traffic related offences outside the UK to UK agents acting on behalf of non-UK authorities to pursue keepers for non payment of penalties for parking and toll road violations incurred outside the UK;
>
> stolen cheque payments to investigate payments related to a vehicle using stolen cheques;

tracing company assets to a liquidator appointed by the court to confirm the assets of a company following insolvency;

confirmation of keeper details to ensure seizure of correct vehicle by bailiff/debt collection agents under court order;

person acting as an executor of a deceased's estate to confirm vehicle assets.

Five commercial companies are provided with a bulk download of the vehicle data, excluding vehicle keeper data, to provide vehicle checking services. This information is updated periodically and matched with police and insurance industry data so that those considering purchasing a vehicle may confirm that the vehicle is as presented and is not stolen, scrapped or seriously damaged.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of trends in reliability and consistency of local bus services in rural areas where an individual bus company has the monopoly. [212245]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's survey of bus punctuality and reliability was not designed to identify trends in areas where an individual bus company has a monopoly and those where this is not the case. But, the latest figures from "Bus Punctuality Statistics GB: 2007" (available in the Libraries of the House) show that performance in rural authority areas has improved since the last survey in 2005.

In 2007, 76 per cent. of non-frequent buses (five buses or less per hour) were on time, compared to 73 per cent. in 2005; and excess waiting time for frequent buses was 1.08 minutes, compared to 1.56 minutes in 2005 (figures for all bus stops).

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport over what period her Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213221]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's depreciation policy is clearly disclosed in the Department's resource accounts which provides the asset lives under categories outlined in the FReM.

Plant and machinery (including vehicles): Three to 25 years

Information technology (computer hardware, bespoke computer software, standard computer software and telecommunications equipment): Three to 10 years

Furniture and fittings: Two to 10 years

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1417W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much her Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fair Trade products. [211572]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information is as follows:

	£
2007-08	1,021,692.68
2006-07	984,348.28
2005-06	1,038,130.23

The Department for Transport does not centrally record the quantities or value of Fairtrade products purchased or the proportions they constitute of total spend and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, at our main London HQ building all tea and coffee served as part of the hospitality service is sourced from Fairtrade suppliers.

Liverpool Street to Chelmsford Railway Line

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 791-92W, on the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford railway line, what options for reducing congestion on the Chelmsford to Liverpool Street line she has discussed with National Express; and on what dates such discussions took place. [213190]

Mr. Tom Harris: Discussions with National Express East Anglia (NXEA) began in November 2007 and are envisaged to continue for several months more.

The discussions have encompassed enhancements to capacity on all routes operated by National Express East Anglia into Liverpool Street. Options that have been discussed for the Great Eastern mainline (encompassing Chelmsford to/from Liverpool Street) include lengthening more trains to 12 carriage formation in both the morning and evening peaks, running limited numbers of additional trains and amending stopping patterns and destinations of trains to/from Liverpool Street.

Detailed proposals are being prepared by National Express East Anglia for further discussion with the Department for Transport.

Network Rail: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has issued guidance to Network Rail on bonuses and salaries to be paid to senior staff. [211404]

Mr. Tom Harris: No. Bonuses and salaries paid to senior staff at Network Rail are a matter for the company's remuneration committee, not for Ministers.

Ports: Imports

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which harbours from Lymington to Dartford and in the Isle of Wight are subject to open port duty regulations. [213189]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Harbour authorities are each governed by their own statutes but nearly all significant commercial harbour authorities have incorporated section 33 of the Harbours, Docks, and Piers Clauses Act 1847 or an equivalent in their legislation.

That is the section which provides that

> "upon payment of the rates made payable by this and the special Act (i.e. the Act which incorporates section 33) and subject to the other provisions thereof, the harbour, dock and pier shall be open to all persons for the shipping and unshipping of goods and the embarking and landing of passengers".

I understand the hon. Member's question is intended to refer to the River Dart rather than Dartford. The Department does not have a definitive list of those harbour authorities which have incorporated section 33 but we understand that among the harbour authorities in the relevant geographical area that have done so are Cowes, Yarmouth, Lymington, Poole, Weymouth, Portland, Torbay, Exmouth and the Dart.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many investigations into the deaths of civilians in Afghanistan have been initiated by the Royal Military Police's Special Investigations Branch in the last three years. [212380]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: Since 2005, there have been seven investigations into the deaths of civilians in Afghanistan by the Royal Military Police's Special Investigations Branch. These include the deaths of civilians working with ISAF forces as a result of insurgent attacks and deaths resulting from force protection incidents. These investigations take place when there is a possibility of a death resulting from a either a criminal act, a breach of rules of engagement, or a breach of the law of armed conflict, by UK forces or others, or at the request of commanders.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the letter to *The Independent on Sunday* of 18 May by Vice-Admiral Peter Wilkinson, if he will place in the Library a copy of the calculations supporting the assertion that a lance corporal deploying to Afghanistan for six months could have a total benefits package worth over £31,000. [207104]

Derek Twigg: The calculation was based around a 12 month period within which a six-month operational tour was undertaken. The figures were calculated by inputting data to the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator (ABC) as follows:

	£
Salary (low band level 6)	[1]20,449.00
Operational Allowance (182 days)	2,380.56
Longer Separation Allowance (182 days)	1,132.04
Food and Incidental Allowance	4,226.70
Health and Fitness facilities	240.00
Dental Care	240.00
Free eye tests	17.00
Prescriptions	13.00
Standard Learning Credit	175.00
Enhanced Learning Credits	2,000.00
Subsidised Accommodation	425.83
Total	[2]31,299.13
Estimated annual employers' contribution to pension	3,967.11
Total (including pension)	[2]35,266.24

[1] Maximum 27,599.00.

[2] Pro rata.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mobility rate was for each service children's education *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in the last academic year. [177594]

Derek Twigg: In order to combine primary and secondary statistics within a single database, Service Children's Education (SCE) is currently revising the Data Collection System employed to monitor pupil mobility rates in SCE schools. I shall write to the hon. Member once this information becomes available.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 878W about the mobility rate for schools operated by Service Children's Education (SCE). I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Mobility Index for each SCE School for the academic year 2006-07 was as follows:

School	*Percentage*
Primary and Middle	
AFNORTH International School	77
Akrotiri School	67
Andrew Humphrey School	52
Ayios Nikolaos School	103
BFS Naples School	74
Bielefeld School	52
Bishopspark School	55
Blakenhagen School	68
Bruggen School	52
Derby School	71
Dhekelia School	52
Episkopi School	63
Haig School	54
Heide School	69
Hornbill School	85
John Buchan School	46
Lister School	68
Marlborough School	69
Montgomery School	79
Mount Pleasant School	184
Mountbatten School	99
Oxford School	53
Robert Browning School	56
SHAPE International School	73
Shackleton School	62
Sir John Mogg School	100
Slim School	73
St. Andrew's School	54
St. Christopher's School	62
St. David's School	55
St. George's School	58
St. Patrick's Schools	61
Toucan School	63

School	Percentage
Tower School	65
Wellington School	68
Weser School	68
William Wordsworth School	66
Secondary	
King Richard School	60
King's School	55
Prince Rupert School	73
St. John's School	62
Windsor School	46

The Mobility Index figures used by SCE are based on the Dobson-Henthorn formula which calculates mobility percentages based on the overall impact to the school roll by children either arriving or leaving each school at a non-standard time, i.e. prior to the normal school leaving age. This can on first sight cause some confusion, e.g. if a School roll is 100 and 50 children leave and are replaced by a different 50 children then the Index would show a percentage score of 100.

I hope this explains the situation.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212107]

Derek Twigg: No Defence Ministers or officials will be attending the Beijing Olympic games in an official capacity.

Trident: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which budget lines in the tables published in section IV of his Department's Defence Plan 2008-2012, Cm 7385, include expenditure dedicated to the Trident nuclear weapons programme; and what the relevant disaggregated allocations to the Trident programme are in each case. [212607]

Des Browne: Budgetary allocations dedicated to the strategic deterrent are present in a number of budget lines in the tables in Section IV of the Defence Plan, reflecting the diverse nature of the expenditure, covering research, capital investment, manpower, estate and other running costs. Expenditure in such areas cuts across a range of Activities and Budget Holders, and as such it is not possible to provide disaggregated allocations by Budget line as set out in the tables in Section IV of the Defence Plan 2008-2012.

Veterans Day

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many grants were awarded to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* Royal British Legions, *(c)* independent bodies and *(d)* individuals for the 2007 Veterans' Day celebrations; and what average grant was awarded to applications in each category. [213005]

Derek Twigg: 105 grants were awarded for 2007 Veterans Day celebrations. Grants were awarded as follows:

Awarded to	*Number of grants awarded*	*Average grant awarded*
Local Authorities	16	6,341
Royal British Legion	29	1,738
Independent Bodies	59	2,684
Individuals	1	500

The differences in average value reflect the different nature of events typically organised by each group.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average grant awarded for the 2007 Veterans' Day was; and if he will make a statement. [213006]

Derek Twigg: The average grant awarded for Veterans Day 2007 was £3,463.

Funding totalling £363,586.17 was awarded to 105 successful bidders.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Arts Council Own Art loans were made in Bassetlaw constituency in each of the last four years. [212636]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The information requested is not available for years prior to 2007-08.

In 2007-08, Arts Council England made 134 Own Art loans in the East Midlands region; three of these loans were made to people with postcodes in the constituency of Bassetlaw.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Arts Council Take it Away loans were made in Bassetlaw constituency in each of the last four years. [212643]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* Arts Council England's Take It Away loan scheme has been operating since July 2007, during which time 749 loans have been made in the East Midlands region; seven of these loans were made to people with postcodes in the constituency of Bassetlaw.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for rolling out digital radio nationally. [212577]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* Yesterday I placed in the Libraries of both Houses the interim report from the Digital Radio Working Group. This report sets out a clear path for radio's migration from analogue to digital.

The Group will now consider further the potential barriers to this proposed digital migration, including the need to increase the coverage of DAB. The Group has also stated that it will be looking closely at each of the nations and the impact on consumers that digital radio migration might have.

I look forward to the Group's final report at the end of this year.

National Lottery Commission: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the National Lottery Commission received from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the National Lottery Distribution Fund account, *(c)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund account and *(d)* other organisations in each year since 1994. [210235]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) pays the running expenses of the National Lottery Commission (NLC) and recovers the net costs from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF). The net costs are defined as the grant in aid paid to the NLC less licence fee income received. (In practice, the licence fee income is collected by the NLC from the lottery operator and must be paid to the DCMS before being passed out as part of the DCMS payment to the NLC.)

The net costs recovered from each fund since 1994 are shown in the following table.

£000

	NLDF	*OLDF (from 2005-06)*
1994-95	4,820	—
1995-96	1,927	—
1996-97	1,459	—
1997-98	1,991	—
1998-99	1,815	—
1999-2000	2,740	—
2000-01	4,396	—
2001-02	2,809	—
2002-03	2,342	—
2003-04	3,765	—
2004-05	4,401	—
2005-06	7,921	—
2006-07	8,047	700

The payments by the NLDF and the OLDF relating to 2007-08 will appear in the annual accounts for the two funds, which are due to be laid before Parliament in October.

The National Lottery Commission has received no funding from other organisations.

Physical Activity: Elderly

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps the Government have taken to encourage pensioners to take more physical exercise; [212266]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to encourage leisure centres to provide sports facilities aimed at pensioners. [212267]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* The Government are committed to increasing participation in sport and physical activity.

On 6 June this year, we announced a package designed to extend opportunities to swim and to maximise the health benefits of wider participation in swimming—particularly for those aged over 60.

The many benefits swimming can bring are reflected in the cross-Government nature of the initiative, with contributions from the Department of Health, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Over the summer, we will work in close consultation with the Local Government Association, the Amateur Swimming Association, Sport England and others to develop the details of the scheme.

Strip Clubs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the licensing of lap dancing clubs. [212460]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have received a number of letters from hon. Members on behalf of constituents who are concerned about the growth of lap dancing establishments in their area, and have received representations from campaign groups and local authorities seeking greater control of such activities. The Government take these concerns seriously and have agreed to look at whether we need to do more to support local communities in controlling these establishments.

Theatre

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase access to theatres in the English regions, with particular reference to rural areas. [212163]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's support for the theatre is channelled through Arts Council England. In recognition of their work in giving people in rural areas access to high-quality performing arts, the Arts Council will provide above-inflation increases in grants for 2008-09 to 2010-11 to a number of local authorities and touring companies. Several arts centres serving rural areas and offering high-quality performing arts programmes also received increases in the Arts Council's last investment strategy. The Arts Council has also increased its funding to the National Rural Touring Forum, the umbrella body for rural touring circuits, by 50 per cent. in 2008-09.

Through its Thrive! programme, the Arts Council has allocated over £1.7 million of lottery funds to support better collaboration within the sector to improve understanding of existing audiences and access for new audiences; and over 25 per cent. of local strategic partnerships (many of them rural) have prioritised increasing engagement in the arts in their new local area agreements.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212508]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have not made any estimates of average pay for Wales Office staff.

The Wales Office draws its staff from other Government Departments, mainly the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Welsh Assembly Government. The home employer sets the level of pay and the method of progression through the pay band.

Staff on temporary fixed term contracts receive salaries in line with the MoJ pay band applicable for the role.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which trades unions represent members of staff in his Department. [212472]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Members of Wales Office staff are represented by the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS).

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Construction: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of (i) incompetent builders and (ii) rogue traders; and if he will make a statement. [207194]

Malcolm Wicks: None. The Office of Fair Trading has however carried out research into consumer detriment very broadly defined: in April of this year they published an assessment of the frequency and impact of consumer problems with goods and services. It has also separately researched the prevalence and impact of scams on UK consumers (report published in December 2006). These and other related reports and consumer information are available on the OFT website

http://www.oft.gov.uk.

To raise standards in the domestic home repair, maintenance and improvement sector, the Government have, in collaboration with industry and consumer stakeholders, developed the Trust Mark Scheme for builders, which commits its members to good standards of customer service and to appropriate redress where these standards are not met.

Estate Agents: Complaints

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 782W, on estate agents, when he expects the Office of Fair Trading to announce who they have approved to run an approved estate agent redress scheme from October 2008; how many responses were received in total to the recent estate agent consultation; and if he will make a statement. [209610]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading announced on 19 June 2008 it had approved the Ombudsman for Estate Agents (OEA) to run an estate agents redress scheme.

There were 12 responses to the estate agents consultation.

Intellectual Property

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons his Department decided to hold a consultation exercise on the implementation of Council Directive 93/98 EEC of 29 October 1993 on copyright and related rights. [211652]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has made no decision to conduct any such consultation exercise.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to implement recommendation 40 of the Gower Review of Intellectual Property on consultation on measures to tighten the regulation of occasional sales and markets. [212688]

Mr. Thomas: Like all other Government bodies, the Department's resources are inevitably limited, and it is necessary to prioritise new projects and work on new issues. It has not so far been possible in that framework to set a specific time frame for implementing this recommendation. However, it remains our intention to do so as soon as may be practicable.

Joint Economic and Trade Committee: India

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in establishing the Joint Economic and Trade Committee with India since the joint declaration with India of 20th September 2004. [212171]

Mr. Thomas: The UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) held its inaugural meeting on 13 January 2005 in New Delhi, co-chaired by the then Secretary of State for the Department of Trade and Industrymy right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, West (Ms Hewitt) and the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry (Shri Kamal Nath).

Since then the ministerial meetings have been held annually, alternating between London and New Delhi—the most recent on 13 December 2007 in London chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Minister Nath.

Nuclear Power

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* costs and *(b)* security of the UK's domestic fuel cycle in relation to nuclear power electricity generation; and if he will make a statement. [212283]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has published a number of pieces of analysis of the costs of meeting our long-term carbon dioxide emissions target. These include work undertaken by the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) for the 2007 Energy White Paper as well as analysis for the 2008 Nuclear White Paper.

A summary version of the analysis is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38979.pdf.

The full report by the UKERC is available at:

http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/Downloads/PDF/S/Scenariosreport.pdf.

The analysis for the 2008 Nuclear White Paper is available in Annex A at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43552.pdf.

Our analysis for the Nuclear White Paper concluded that, without the option of nuclear power, the costs to the economy could amount to an additional £1 billion per annum by 2050 and £5 billion per annum if carbon capture and storage were not to prove a feasible technology. Excluding nuclear as an option would mean the UK would also be reliant on a less diverse mix of technologies to insure us against the future developments that could undermine security of supply, for example higher fossil fuel prices.

Departmental Press Office

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department's press office cost in each of the last five years, in *(a)* staffing, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other overhead costs. [210265]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

Cost of Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform press office

	£000
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	1,074
2005-06	1,106
2006-07	967

Following a machinery of government change in July 2007, figures for BERR 2007-08 will not be available until after the accounts are audited.

Figures are not available for the DTI prior to 2004-05 as that year saw the introduction of a new accounting system and the accounts for previous years were not transferred.

Total pay costs represent the costs of staff in post—comprising salary, overtime, NI and superannuation.

The accommodation and overhead costs are managed centrally for the whole Department and are not therefore separately identifiable for press office.

Royal Mail: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the proposed closure of the Royal Mail sorting office in Crewe; and if he will make a statement. [209401]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* Ministers are aware of Royal Mail's review of its North West mail centres but have not received any formal representations. This review is an operational matter for the company.

Tourism: Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much regional development agencies spent on marketing and promoting tourism in each of the last five years. [210256]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the regional development agencies (RDAs) spend on marketing and promotion of tourism in their region. Several RDAs deliver tourism marketing and promotion at regional, sub-regional and/or local levels through a third party organisation(s). In these cases the amount has been included in the figures given.

£000

RDAs	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM[1]	0	700	700	700	1,150
EEDA	569	613	672	1,296	1,723
EMDA	101	266	2,499	2,273	2,016
LDA[2]	0	16,217	14,743	14,847	15,241
NWDA	10	2,650	2,584	2,647	2,404
ONE	0	0	1,698	4,817	4,014
SEEDA	0	0	0	374	400
SWRDA	500	500	500	500	500
YF	360	1,300	1,000	2,880	3,100

[1] Estimated figures.

[2] Data represent the grant to Visit London. It is not possible to separate out marketing and promotion of tourism. London is recognised by the UK tourism industry as supporting the success of other UK destinations through its gateway role and Visit London plays an important delivery role in promoting London as a gateway to the rest of the UK.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Care Homes: Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether an individual residing in a care home and paying their own fees in full is entitled to the full winter fuel allowance; [213663]

(2) whether an individual residing in a care home whose fees are being *(a)* paid in full or *(b)* partially paid from public funds is entitled to the full winter fuel allowance. [213664]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A person residing in a care home who is not in receipt of pension credit is entitled to a shared winter fuel payment. This includes someone paying their own care home fees. This is because they share their home with other people who are also entitled to the payment.

A person residing in a care home who is in receipt of pension credit is not entitled to a winter fuel payment.

This is because the vast majority of people receiving pension credit also receive public funding from the local authority towards their care costs including heating.

Child Poverty Unit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the operational plan for the Joint Child Poverty Unit. [211137]

Mr. Timms: The Child Poverty Unit's workplan is determined by the unit's vision and mission.

The Child Poverty Unit's vision is to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and ensure that no child has their childhood or life chances blighted by poverty. Its mission is to make child poverty everybody's business and work in partnership with stakeholders within and outside Government to drive the changes needed to achieve the vision.

The unit's detailed workplan constitutes advice to Ministers, and in accordance with previous convention on these matters, such advice is not made public.

Child Support Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the total debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part; and what total sum has been recovered. [185895]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mark Grimshaw, dated 24 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently out of the office on business, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total value is of the contracts the Child Support Agency (CSA) has with external debt collectors; how much has been paid to date under such contracts; with which debt collectors the CSA has contracts; how many cases they are handling; what the total debt outstanding on transfer to the external debt collectors is; how many cases they have successfully recovered outstanding debt from (a) in full and (b) in part; and what total sums has been recovered. [185895]

The Agency currently has contracts with Eversheds LLP and iQor debt collection agencies under which fees are based on the amount collected. A total of £2.47m had been paid up to the end of April 2008.

Since August 2006, the Agency has referred over 63,000 cases to debt collection agencies with a total debt of £335.9 million. By the end of March 2008, £11.9 million had been collected from 17,358 cases, of which 4030 had paid in full. Additionally, in the same period, the seven-day warning letter sent by the Agency to inform clients that their debt is being transferred to the debt collection agencies has resulted in an additional £6 million being collected by the Agency bringing the total collected in this period to £17.9m.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on using energy efficiency measures to tackle fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [211940]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) works closely with a number of Government Departments, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on measures aimed at tackling fuel poverty. Regular meetings are held at both official and ministerial level.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment advisers are employed by Jobcentre Plus; and what proportion of them specialise in dealing with people who are *(a)* disabled and *(b)* over the age of 60 years. [212352]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many employment advisers are employed by Jobcentre Plus; and what proportion of them specialise in dealing with people who are (a) disabled and (b) over the age of 60 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently 8,918 full time equivalent employment advisers within Jobcentre Plus. Of these 1,615 (18.1%) specialise in dealing with people with a disability as Disability Employment Advisers, Incapacity Benefit Advisers or New Deal for Disabled People Advisers. There are no employment advisers who specialise in dealing with people over the age of 60 but there are 114 (1.3%) employment advisers for those people over 50. .

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question *(a)* 167266, tabled on 20 November 2007, *(b)* 170276, tabled on 27 November 2007 and *(c)* 170570, tabled on 28 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Northavon. [178370]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member *(a)* on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2061W, *(b)* on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1887W, *(c)* on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 254W.

National Insurance: Migrant Workers

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrant workers from other EU member states in *(a)* Wellingborough, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* the United Kingdom have national insurance numbers; and how many he estimates there will be in 2020. [208780]

Mr. Timms: Information on the stock of national insurance numbers held by migrants from EU member states is not available. The available information on the number of national insurance numbers registered in 2006-07 to adult EU nationals in the geographic areas requested is in the table. Information is not available on how many of these EU nationals are in work.

National insurance numbers allocated to adult EU nationals (excluding the United Kingdom)

Area	*2006-07*
Wellingborough local authority	830
Northamptonshire	6,330
United Kingdom	418,480

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
3. Geographical counts are based on the most recently recorded address for the national insurance number recipient at the time of the data scan.
4. Data relate to tax years 6 April to 5 April.
5. Data for Northamptonshire comprise the following local authorities: Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire, and Wellingborough.
6. Data include NINO allocations to adult Bulgarian and Romanian nationals for the whole of the 2006-07 period.

Source:

Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the National Insurance Recording System

There are no estimates of national insurance number allocations to adult EU nationals in 2020.

New Deal Schemes: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people, *(b)* young people, *(c)* lone parents, *(d)* people over 25 years and *(e)* people over 50 years participated in the New Deal in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire and (iii) North Lincolnshire in 2007. [212839]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is in the following table.

Starters (individuals) to new deal programmes in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency, North East Lincolnshire local authority and North Lincolnshire local authority[1] February 2008

	All[2]	*New deal for young people*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal 50 plus[3]*
Cleethorpes	5,670	2,350	1,700	1,080	200
North East Lincolnshire	14,470	6,130	3,780	3,290	530
North Lincolnshire	8,620	3,670	2,500	1,530	360

[1] Local authority: Local authority is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and client's postcode.

[2] All includes those started new deal for disabled people and new deal for partners.

[3] New deal 50 plus: Data only available for starters from January 2004.

Note:

Definitions and conventions: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

The information shown for NDYP, NDLP, ND25+ and ND50+ is published at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Pension Credit

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the amount of pension credit unclaimed in *(a)* Islwyn constituency, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales in each year since its introduction; [212800]

(2) how many pensioners in Islwyn constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receive a pension credit. [212801][1]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of eligibility, take-up and the amount of benefit unclaimed are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is not therefore possible to say how many people are eligible to pension credit or how much pension credit is unclaimed in Islwyn constituency, England or Wales.

Latest estimates of take-up rates, the number of pensioners who were entitled but not claiming pension credit and the amount of pension credit unclaimed in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006/07" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

As at February 2008 there were 3,910 pensioner households—4,860 individuals—receiving pension credit in Islwyn constituency.

Notes:

1. The figures provided are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 28 February 2008. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Pensioners: Council Tax

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in poverty are liable to pay council tax at the full rate. [203266]

Mr. Plaskitt: Approximately 150,000 pensioners living in households with income of less than 60 per cent. of national median income are liable to pay council tax at the full rate. This equates to about 8 per cent. of pensioners living below the 60 per cent. threshold, and about 1 per cent. of all pensioners.

These pensioners are pensioner couples, without disabilities, who have more than £16,000 capital.

Notes:

1. These figures have been derived using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These are estimated indicative figures.
2. The PSM models the current policy year (2008-09) using the latest FRS data (2006-07), by uprating the FRS to represent the appropriate policy year.
3. The analysis provided assumes full take-up of income-related benefits in 2008-09.
4. The Government's preferred measures of low income for pensioners are based on incomes measured after housing costs. As part of PSA Delivery Agreement 17 three indicators of low income poverty will be monitored: the percentage of pensioners below 60 per cent. contemporary median income, 50 per cent. median income and 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.

---

[1] *[Official Report, 17 September 2008, Vol. 479, c. 14MC.]*

Poverty: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide poverty statistics on the same basis as those contained in the most recent Households Below Average Income figures for each *(a)* district and *(b)* unitary authority in Hampshire in 2006-07. [212329]

Mr. Timms: Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region.

The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the criteria are for eligibility for signing on for benefits by telephone rather than in person at a Jobcentre Plus. [212270]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the criteria are for eligibility for signing on for benefits by telephone rather than in person at Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Regular face-to-face contact is the most effective method of helping people find work quickly, and ensuring they remain entitled to payment of benefit by showing they are actively seeking work. We have tested alternative approaches, including jobsearch reviews by telephone, but these have all resulted in people taking longer to find work and leave Jobseeker's Allowance. Therefore we do not allow customers to sign for benefits by telephone and so have no criteria.

Social Security Benefits: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefits payable to residents in East Devon has been paid into post office card accounts in each of the last five years. [211675]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the total POCA accounts and proportion of each type of state benefits payable to residents in East Devon into a Post Office card account in each of the last five years.

					December					
	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Total	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*	*Total*	*%*
Attendance Allowance	0		100	7	110	9	130	12	110	11
Bereavement Benefit	0		0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Disability Living Allowance	10	—	240	10	300	13	290	12	300	11
Incapacity Benefit	10	—	150	10	230	16	210	15	190	14
Carers Allowance	0	—	70	15	80	17	80	15	80	15
Industrial Injuries	0	—	100	21	100	23	100	22	100	22
Income Support	30	1	230	14	360	22	340	21	300	19
Jobseekers Allowance	0	—	20	5	30	8	40	8	30	6
Pension Credit	10	—	840	20	1,190	28	1,160	27	1,110	26
State Pension	130	1	2,580	10	4,280	16	4,030	15	3,800	14
Severe Disablement Allowance	0	—	10	6	30	14	30	15	20	13
Widows Benefit	0	—	10	5	20	11	20	11	10	11
Total	190	—	4,350	11	6,750	17	6,430	16	6,060	15

'—' Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1 Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole percent.

2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Figures are taken from latest available data at 22 December 2007.

4 Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.

5. Child benefit is now administered by HM Revenue and Customs and war pensions are now administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate, 100 per cent data

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many consolatory payments have been made by his Department to next of kin contacted by the Department or an agency acting on its behalf to recover overpayments of benefits following the death of a claimant in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [211211]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received from people contacted about recovering benefit overpayments following the death of a claimant. [211217]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are signing on for benefits by telephone at the Stroud JobcentrePlus office who were in the catchment area of the previous Dursley JobcentrePlus office; [212271]

(2) how many people who are signing on for benefits at the Stroud JobcentrePlus office, and who are based in the catchment area of the previous Dursley JobcentrePlus office are receiving help with travelling expenses. [212272]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many people are signing on for benefits by telephone at the Stroud Jobcentre Plus office who were in the catchment area of the previous Dursley Jobcentre Plus office and how many people signing on for benefits at the Stroud Jobcentre Plus office and who are based in the catchment area of the previous Dursley Jobcentre Plus office are receiving help with travel expenses. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Stroud Jobcentre Plus does not have any telephone signers on their register. we do not allow customers to sign for benefits by telephone.

Current legislation does not provide for the reimbursement of fares to Jobseeker's Allowance customers for their normal fortnightly attendance. There are circumstances in which it is unreasonable to expect people to attend the Jobcentre and where reimbursement of travel expenses is appropriate. For example when they have been asked to attend on a weekly basis or when their signing day has been changed at short notice.

We do have provision to allow customers to maintain their claim by post if it is felt unreasonable to expect them to attend the office in person. There are currently no postal signers at the Stroud Jobcentre Plus office.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213501]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has not spent any money commissioning or funding the production of television programmes in the last three years, and to date in 2008-09.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 177497 on pension credit and pension guarantee credit, tabled by the hon. Member for Hendon on 7 January 2008. [183070]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* I replied to my hon. Friend's question on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 254W.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to Question 189633, tabled on 22 February 2008, on TICC Ltd. [202667]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* I replied to my hon. Friend's question on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information he has on the number of partial birth abortions performed in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* length of gestation of the pregnancy and *(b)* the reason for the abortion was in each of those cases; [212417]

(2) if he will introduce legislation to ban the use of partial birth abortion in late pregnancy; what discussions he has had with the medical profession about this method of abortion; what representations he has received since January 2007 about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [212447]

Dawn Primarolo: We are not aware of the procedure referred to as 'partial-birth abortion' being used in Great Britain.

It is the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' belief that this form of abortion is never used as a primary or pro-active technique.

There are no plans to introduce legislation to ban this procedure.

The Department has approximately five letters from members of the public on this issue since January 2007.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines on the publication of abortion statistics have been produced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office for National Statistics; who was consulted prior to the finalisation of these guidelines; if he will place a copy of these guidelines in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [212445]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005, the Department asked the National Statistician to produce guidance on the disclosure of health statistics, including abortion statistics.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) chaired the project board with representatives from ONS (business areas, methodology, legal services), the Department; East Region Public Health Observatory, Information Centre for Health and Social Care, Welsh Assembly Government, NHS Scotland and Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety. There was also a public consultation.

Guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics was published by ONS in July 2005 and the health statistics guidance in October 2006, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The abortion guidance is currently being reviewed by ONS and any revisions will be in line with the generic health guidance and the Government Statistical Service Statistics Disclosure Control policy.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions took place in *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* non-NHS hospitals or institutions at (i) 23, (ii) 24, (iii) 25, (iv) 26, (v) 27, (vi) 28, (vii) 29, (viii) 30 and (ix) 31 weeks period of gestation in each year since 1991; and if he will make a statement; [212448]

(2) on what grounds each abortion took place in *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* non-NHS hospitals or institutions at (i) 23, (ii) 24, (iii) 25, (iv) 26, (v) 27, (vi) 28, (vii) 29, (viii) 30 and (ix) 31 weeks period of

gestation in each year since 1991; and if he will make a statement. [212449]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the followings tables.

Abortions by gestation 23-31 weeks, grounds and place of termination, residents of England and Wales, 1991 to 2007

23 weeks gestation[1]	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
National health service hospitals[2]																	
Section 1 (1)(a) and other grounds except section 1 (1)(d)	[3]46	11	[4]62	15	16	14	10	13	14	12	[5]78	[6]98	17	11	13	[7]128	29
Section 1 (1)(d)	[3]	37	[4]	45	57	65	61	72	86	90	[5]—	[6]—	107	100	102	[7]—	87
Non NHS place																	
Section 1(1)(a) and other	309	215	255	237	218	297	304	346	379	373	433	435	406	352	221	382	325
Total 23 weeks	355	263	317	297	291	376	375	431	479	475	511	533	530	463	336	510	441

24 to 31 weeks gestation	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
NHS hospital[8]																	
Section 1(1)(d)[9]																	
24	34	31	25	26	39	21	24	11	25	22	24	33	41	41	38	34	29
25	18	15	21	23	11	27	10	12	20	20	21	19	22	21	26	22	23
26[2]	[10]24	[11]11	[12]21	20	10	16	20	[13]18	[14]13	13	[18]21	11	[19]24	[20]20	[21]29	[22]24	[23]25
27[2]	[10]—	[11]—	[12]—	6	4	7	6	[13]—	[14]—	8	[18]—	10	[19]—	[20]—	[21]—	[22]—	[23]—
28[2]	[15]14	[16]14	[17]13	10	11	9	3	5	7	9	8	[24]25	[25]27	[26]24	[27]20	[28]22	[29]35
29[2]	[15]—	[16]—	[17]—	8	5	7	7	6	3	2	4	[24]—	[25]—	[26]—	[27]—	[28]—	[29]—
30[2]	[15]—	[16]—	[17]—	3	2	6	1	4	4	7	4	[24]—	[25]—	[26]—	[27]—	[28]—	[29]—
31[2]	[15]—	[16]—	[17]—	2	5	1	3	5	3	3	5	[24]—	[25]—	[26]—	[27]—	[28]—	[29]—

[1] Includes 24 weeks and 0 days.

[2] Where section 1(1)(a) of the Abortion Act 1967 is grouped with other grounds, and where gestations are grouped, all totals for other grounds and gestations are less than 10 and have not been previously published. This suppression is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

[8] All abortions at 24 weeks and over are performed in NHS hospitals.

[9] For gestations of 24 weeks and over, totals may include a very small number of abortions carried out under section 1(1)(b), section 1(1)(c) and section 1(4).

Section 1 (1)(a): that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Section 1 (1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

Other grounds includes:

Section 1(1)(b): that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Section 1 (1)(c): that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.

Section 1 (1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

Section 1 (4): that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to liberalise the law relating to abortion in England and Wales; [213779]

(2) if he will bring forward legislation to amend the Abortion Act 1967; [213780]

(3) what recent representations he has received *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the liberalisation of legislation relating to abortion. [213781]

Dawn Primarolo: It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government have no plans to change the law on abortion.

During 2008, we have received 200 letters on issues relating to abortion and around 1,650 letters about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, some of which have mentioned abortion. Records are not kept on how many of these support or oppose liberalising the law on abortion.

Alcoholic Drinks: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for conditions related to *(a)* alcohol abuse and *(b)* drug abuse there were in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [210267]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on hospital admissions for conditions related to alcohol abuse and drug abuse is not collected centrally.

Bone Cancer

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into bone cancer in each of the last five years. [213665]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom-wide partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org.

Details of current departmental and Medical Research Council site-specific cancer research can be found through this database.

The NCRI's 2004 strategic analysis of the directly funded cancer research supported by Government and charities showed that 62 per cent. of total funding was dedicated to supporting research that could be applicable to all cancers.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on raising awareness of bone cancer symptoms among *(a)* general practitioners and other medical professionals and *(b)* the general public in each of the last three years. [213666]

Ann Keen: In December 2007, the Cancer Reform Strategy (copies of the strategy are available in the Library) established the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative, led by the National Cancer Director. In order to co-ordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness, the initiative is bringing together and collaborating with representatives of local authorities, the Department, the National Cancer Research Institute, cancer charities such as Cancer 52 (a charity representing rarer cancers, including primary bone cancer), and patient representatives. The initiative will co-ordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness.

This initiative is in the early stages of development, and appropriate funding will be made available as necessary.

Bone Cancer: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treating bone cancer in young people *(a)* in Lancashire and *(b)* nationally in each of the last five years; and with what rate of success in each case. [213667]

Ann Keen: In 2006-07, the national health service spent approximately £4.35 billion on cancer services. Expenditure on bone cancer cannot be separately identified from this figure.

The relative five-year survival rates for patients aged 15 to 49 in England and Wales diagnosed with bone cancer between 1996 and 1999, and followed up to 2001, were 53 per cent. for men and 60 per cent. for women. For those aged 15 to 99, the survival rates were 44.1 per cent. for men and 54.2 per cent. for women.

The relative five-year survival rates for children in England and Wales diagnosed with osteosarcoma between 1986 and 1990, and followed up to 1995, were 47 per cent. for boys and 56 per cent. for girls. For the north and north-west region, the rate was 55 per cent. for all children.

Survival rates figures for England and, more specifically, Lancashire, are not available.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken to diagnose bone cancer in young people *(a)* in Lancashire and *(b)* nationally was in each of the last five years. [213668]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

British Association for Immediate Care: Doctors

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to hospitals on *(a)* BASIC doctors attending at the scene of an incident and *(b)* provisions to be made to care for their patients during such absences from the hospital. [213610]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not published any specific guidance to BASIC doctors. However, in the "NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005", generic advice on pre-hospital care is provided, copies of the guidance are available in the Library. Those BASIC doctors that work full time for the national health service, can only respond to out-of-hospital incidents when they are not on NHS duty.

Carers: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down by budget heading the cost of carrying out the National Carers Review. [212129]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 18 June 2008]*: We undertook an extensive consultation across Government and with stakeholders in carrying out National carers review. The cost of carrying this out was £665,999 exclusive of VAT.

This figure can be broken down as follows:

£99,693 cost of nine regional events;

£114,897 cost of four deliberative events, (including one specifically for young carers); and

£451,409 cost of the web consultation and research. This figure can be broken down as follows:

£32,525 developing and design of the online consultation;

£26,112 design and production of Ideas Tree toolkit and PDF;

£6,530 input, coding and analysis of the first 1,000 paper responses;

£336,342 research element of the nine regional events and two deliberative events; and

£49,900 inclusion of members of the public in deliberative events.

Chilvers McRae

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts the NHS has with Chilvers McRae. [212206]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information on local contracts between primary care trusts and their primary care providers.

Continuing Care: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether consequential deductions from state pensions are made in respect of those pensioners receiving NHS continuing care. [212201]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

No. In April 2006, we abolished reductions in state pension entitlement for people in NHS hospitals.

Cord Blood

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS maternity units he estimates will apply for the new cord blood collection licence announced by the Human Tissue Authority on 30th April 2008. [210828]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to determine at this stage what proportion of those applying for a licence will be national health service maternity units. The Human Tissue Authority estimates that there are between 50 and 200 procurement organisations. Up to half of these are thought to be related to umbilical cord blood. Some are already licensed and others will be able to work under valid third party agreements which mean that they will not themselves require a licence.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1672-3W, on departmental public expenditure, what centrally determined investment priorities are funded under the programme capital scheme. [209181]

Mr. Bradshaw: The centrally determined investment priorities that will receive some funding under the programme capital arrangements are listed as follows.

National Health Service organisations will receive information shortly on the amounts available for these investment priorities.

Description of budget

Coronary heart disease completing last of major 'Heart Centres' schemes announced in late 2001-02

Connecting for Health Central Funding for local implementation

Genetics modernisation of services

Psychiatric Intensive Care Units and 'places of safety'

High Security Services

Workforce Medical school expansion

Workforce Dental school expansion

Workforce Radiological academies and radiotherapy training

Decontamination completion of programme

Great Ormond Street 'Phase 2'

Funds for publicly funded enabling schemes for PFI schemes in procurement Occupational Health Outreach pilot sites

Funds to support improved energy efficiency in NHS Buildings

Radiotherapy training

Hazardous Area Response teams and Emergency vehicles and equipment

Research and Development Strategy

NHS Direct

End of Life Care, grants to be allocated in conjunction with Kings Fund

Community Hospitals Programme

Fluoridation

Learning Disability Grants to permit transfer of service users from NHS facilities to tenanted facilities in community

Drugs misuse treatment strategy schemes to increase residential drug treatment capacity

Pilot Healthy living centre for offenders

Pulmonary Rehab Equipment

Capital Resource Cover for Wave 1 Independent Sector treatment Centre schemes

Dietary Supplements: Folic Acid

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what limits the Food Standards Agency plans to apply to the level of folic acid in food supplements imported from *(a)* Guernsey and *(b)* Jersey. [211435]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has no current plans to apply a limit to the level of folic acid which may be present in food supplements imported from Guernsey or Jersey.

However, commercial imports of food supplements into the UK (including those consigned from Guernsey and Jersey) must comply with relevant food law including the EC Food Supplements Directive. This legislation includes an obligation to set maximum levels for vitamins and minerals (including folic acid) in food supplements on the basis of scientific risk assessment. Levels have not yet been set and work is currently under way with proposals from the European Commission expected in January 2009.

Emergency Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on major incidents to enable deployment of mobile emergency response incidence teams. [213609]

Dawn Primarolo: The "NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005" describes the arrangements for the organisation of immediate medical care at the scene of a major incident. Copies of the guidance are available in the Library.

The Department has been working with key stakeholders to develop more detailed guidance on medical response incidents teams. It is hoped that this guidance will be published in autumn this year.

The guidance will describe the make-up of the team, the training requirements and the categories of incidences the teams will be required to respond to.

Environmental Health

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions environmental health officers closed premises for public health reasons in each region of England in each year since 1997. [213495]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) holds information on the numbers of food establishments closed by environmental health officers (by emergency prohibition notices/orders or closure on a voluntary basis) because of their imminent risk to food safety. We can supply this information on an England only basis as we do not collate the information regionally. Non-food establishments may be subject to closure for public health reasons, but data on this would not be collected by the FSA.

Local authority environmental health officers have powers under food safety regulations to close food premises through either an emergency prohibition notice (or order), or a voluntary closure. In a small number of cases, an emergency notice may be served prohibiting the use of a specified piece of equipment; however, the food business may continue to operate. This information is shown in the following table.

Number of food establishments in England subject to:	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1999*	*1998*	*1997*
Emergency prohibition notice/order	241	221	301	215	151	141	139	138	99	85
Voluntary closures	498	385	328	303	262	209	174	248	311	308
Total	739	606	629	518	413	350	313	386	410	393

Note:
Data were collected on a financial year basis from 2004-05 but on a calendar year basis prior to this.

General Practitioners

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average distance from a GP surgery to the nearest external pharmacy is in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west region and *(d)* England. [211012]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the distances between general practitioner surgeries and external pharmacies is currently not held centrally.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1453W, on the Carr-Hill formula review, what revisions have been made to the formula. [212228]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recommendations on the review of the Carr-Hill formula published 9 February 2007 will form part of the ongoing GP contract negotiations with the British Medical Association. Copies of the "Review of the General Medical Services global sum formula" have been placed in the Library.

Gifts and Endowments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what gifts were received by members of staff in his Department in the course of their duties in 2007-08. [212588]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information centrally about gifts received by members of staff in the course of their duties. To retrieve this information from local sources would involve disproportionate cost.

All staff are aware of their obligation under the code of conduct, copies of which are available in the Library and on the Department's intranet site, which provides guidance about the acceptance of gifts and hospitality.

Health Centres

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that local authorities are fully consulted on the introduction of polyclinics. [212165]

Mr. Bradshaw: In commissioning new additional primary medical services (additional general practitioner (GP) practices and GP led health centres) the Department has consistently emphasised to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts the need for strong public and clinical engagement in making decisions on the location and the range of services to be provided. The precise scope and nature of the consultation process should be determined locally, but we would expect this to engage with local authorities and their representatives as well as directly with patients and clinicians.

Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to improve care and support services. [208058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The Government are committed to fundamental reform of the adult social care and support system.

We intend to hold a national consultation, which will lead to the publication of a Green Paper, to identify options for a new system, which will be fair to all and sustainable for the long term.

Advances in public health, healthcare and changes in society mean that we are living longer, and as communities become more diverse, the challenge of supporting that diversity becomes more apparent.

This sort of transformation will require working across the boundaries of social care such as housing, benefits, leisure and transport and health, with partners from independent, voluntary and community organisations to ensure a strategic balance of investment in local services. The importance of this holistic approach is recognised and underpinned by the concordat, 'Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care', which the Department published in December 2007.

'Putting People First' sets out the shared aims and values which will guide the transformation of adult social care. It recognises that prevention is one key element of the transformation agenda. The concordat sets out the cross-sector commitment to personalising public services and aims to support all councils to transform their adult social care systems by moving away from intervention at the point of crisis towards early intervention and prevention, focused on promoting independence and improved wellbeing. We are extracting and disseminating early lessons learnt from the Partnerships for Older People Projects programme and related initiatives to support the transformation programme.

It is for councils to determine the allocation of their resources in their area depending on local needs and priorities. This Government have made unprecedented investments in care and support since 1997, including a 45 per cent. real terms increase in local government funding by 2010-11.

We have already made £25 million available to councils to help them support carers in a crisis situation. The review of the Prime Minister's Carers Strategy will be published this month and the helpline will be operational later in the year. We are also establishing a training programme for carers. The first face-to-face training will be in place by August and the distance learning version by the end of the year.

The Government are committed to supporting young disabled people. This is outlined as one of our commitments in the Independent Living Strategy. We will support young disabled people and ensure they experience a seamless transition into adulthood, including those with complex health needs, in all aspects of their life, including between children's and adults' services, as well as housing, transport, employment, education and training.

On 14 December 2007, the Government announced a £45 million fund to ensure that disabled children in England can take better quality short breaks and to give their families time off.

Disabled young people in England are also to receive £8.4 million in extra support. Low income families with disabled young people aged 16 and 17 will be able to access a grant through the Family Fund.

Health Services: Developing Countries

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the Government's response to the Crisp report on global health partnerships, what progress has been made on guidance on an NHS framework on international development to enable employees in his Department and the NHS to negotiate leave of absence; and what discussions have taken place with NHS employers on the dissemination of such advice to NHS managers; [208210]

(2) with reference to the Crisp report on global health partnerships, what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for International Development and *(b)* relevant stakeholders on (i) establishing an NHS framework for international development setting out the principles and rationale for NHS involvement in international partnerships and (ii) identifying a role with oversight of international development activity in each strategic health authority in England. [208211]

Dawn Primarolo: Informal discussions have taken place within Government and with a variety of stakeholders on all these issues. There has been a series of discussions between interested Departments to make progress on the proposals described in our response to Lord Crisp's report. The Department of Health and the Department for International Development are in the process of finalising arrangements for the tendering of the framework and 'one-stop shop'. We will be discussing the Government response to Lord Crisp's report, and how we can take forward a marketing strategy as part of the framework, at a future meeting of the national health service strategic health authority chief executives.

We have also engaged with stakeholders through two meetings in the last month, one hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and a second by the Faculty of Public Health. There will also be discussion with stakeholders at this year's Faculty of Public Health annual meeting in June in Cardiff.

Finally, the Department of Health and the Department for International Development (will also be attending a meeting to mark the 20th year anniversary of the Tropical Health Education Trust. This will provide a further opportunity to take these areas forward with interested stakeholders.

Heart Attacks

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions for suspected or actual heart attacks there were in each hospital accident and emergency unit in *(a)* the latest month for which figures are available and *(b)* the same month in the preceding year. [213782]

Ann Keen: The Myocardial Infarction Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) collects data on treatment of patients with heart attack. To be included in MINAP, patients should have an initial diagnosis of heart attack upon admission. Figures will therefore not include suspected heart attacks, which were subsequently found not to be a cardiac condition.

Monthly figures are not aggregated at a national level and in many cases will be too small to be meaningful. For comparison purposes, therefore, three months of data for October to December 2006 and the same period in 2007 have been provided. 2008 data are not yet sufficiently complete for comparison.

For England the number of definite admissions for heart attack was:

October to December	*Number*
2006	5,343
2007	5,218

Source:
MINAP as at 23 June 2008

Figures by hospital within each strategic hospital have been placed in the Library. The majority of patients will have been admitted via accident and emergency departments.

HIV Infection

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of people with HIV who are unaware that they have the virus. [213328]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency's (HPA's) most recent annual estimate is that there were approximately 21,600 adults (aged 15 to 59) living with HIV in the United Kingdom in 2006 who were unaware of their infection.

Hospitals: Overseas Visitors

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on employing overseas visitors' officers in hospitals in the last 12 months. [213327]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the extraction of identifiable information regarding patients from summary and detailed care records and its subsequent storage in an identifiable form on a secondary users database. [212179]

Mr. Bradshaw: At present there are no plans for the extraction of identifiable information from summary care records for storage in an identifiable form in the secondary uses service. It is possible that, in future, information in an anonymised or pseudonimised form, could be stored on a secondary uses service database.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop further encrypted secure structured data messaging to expedite the transfer of information between the discrete electronic records of clinicians involved in care, with particular reference to those circumstances where clinicians do not share the same detailed care records. [212181]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information technology systems and applications developed under the national programme or information technology (NPfIT), transmit data, securely encrypted, using either the transport level security (TLS) or secure socket layer (SSL) protocols. This allows applications to communicate across a network in a way that prevents eavesdropping, tampering and forgery. They provide authentication and privacy at each end of the transaction over networks using cryptography. In addition, the programme has delivered NHSmail which allows clinicians to transfer electronic records securely encrypted between users within the nhs.net email domain.

NHS Connecting for Health is also developing a new service for the NHS, to be delivered over the N3 broadband network, called secure file transfer, to allow large files to be transferred between care settings over an encrypted channel whether they are related to NPfIT systems or not.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia and intubation; and what categories of personnel are permitted to perform this procedure. [213611]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not issued any formal guidelines on rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia and intubation. This is a technique carried out only in the most serious emergencies by trained anaesthetists whose professional standards are the subject of guidance from the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

NHS: Belgium

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations the NHS Office in Europe has responded to since its inception. [212079]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European Office is part of the NHS Confederation and is funded by the strategic health authorities. It was established in September 2007 to inform national health service organisations of key European Union (EU) developments and help the NHS to respond to EU policy and legislative developments on a strategic level.

Further information about the NHS European Office and its activities is available on the Office's website at:

www.nhsconfed.org/europe

NHS: EU Law

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes are followed under EU competition law when the NHS contracts with private sector clinical services providers; and if he will make a statement. [213037]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any procurement of clinical services with a value in excess of £139,893 needs to be undertaken in accordance with European procurement law as introduced into the United Kingdom by the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

The Department published a "PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services" in May 2008. This is a guide for commissioners of health care services and provides guidance for them on whether and how to procure clinical services and to ensure that procurements are carried out in accordance with European law and national health service principles and practice. Copies have been placed in the Library and it is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084778

Key requirements of European law relating to the procurement of clinical services include requirements that procurements are transparent, proportionate, non-discriminatory and ensure equality of treatment.

It is of fundamental importance that procurements are advertised to achieve transparency. As set out in the "Principles for Cooperation and Competition" copies of which have been placed in the Library published with "the Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09" copies of which are available in the Library, a procurement portal is being established by the Department of Health. Commissioners will be required to advertise all contracts for clinical services on this portal.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* net NHS expenditure and *(b)* the annual change in net NHS expenditure was (i) in current prices, (ii) in real terms and (iii) adjusted for NHS-specific inflation in each year since 1997-98. [213503]

Mr. Bradshaw: The details requested on national health service expenditure are shown in the following table.

Change in NHS net expenditure 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Net NHS expenditure (£ billion)	*Percentage change*	*Percentage Real terms change*[1]	*Change after adjusting for NHS specific inflation*
Cash				
1996-97[2]	32.997	—	—	—
1997-98[2]	34.664	5.1	2.1	2.9
1998-99[2]	36.608	5.6	3.0	1.6
1999-2000[2]	39.881	8.9	6.8	4.1
Stage 1 Resource Basis				
1999-2000[2]	40.201	—	—	—
2000-01[2]	43.932	9.3	7.7	5.0
2001-02[2]	49.021	11.6	9.0	6.5
2002-03[2]	54.042	10.2	6.9	6.5
Stage 2 Resource Basis				
2002-03[2]	57.049	—	—	—
2003-04[2]	64.173	12.5	9.3	7.4
2004-05[2]	69.051	7.6	4.7	—
2005-06[2]	75.822	9.8	7.5	—
2006-07[2]	80.561	6.3	3.4	—
2007-08[3]	89.568	11.2	7.7	—

[1] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.

[2] Outturn.

[3] Estimated outturn.

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis.
2. Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are on a Stage 2 Resource Budgeting basis.
3. Figures are not consistent over the period, therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across time periods.
4. Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.
5. Expenditure excludes NHS Annually Managed Expenditure.
6. Gross domestic product deflator at 28 March 2008.
7. Total expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital, expenditure net of non-trust Depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HM Treasury Guidance.
8. Growth adjusted for NHS specific inflation is only quoted up to 2003-04. This is because the index underlying this calculation was no longer available due to a discontinuity in the data set used to calculate the index.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's response to its consultation on Payment by Results. [212594]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department published its response to the consultation exercise "Options for the future of Payment by Results" on 24 January 2008. As well as including a summary of the responses received, it also sets out the Department's broad thinking on the way ahead for Payment by Results.

Copies of the response have been placed in the Library, and can also be accessed on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_082424

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* net financial outturn, *(b)* gross surplus and *(c)* gross deficit of the NHS (i) including foundation trusts and (ii) excluding foundation trusts was in each year since 1997-98. [213504]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table provides the national health service gross financial position for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07 and the net financial position of the NHS for years 1997-98 to 2006-07.

The independent regulator for foundation trusts, Monitor, is responsible for reporting the financial position of this sector.

£ million

	Total NHS gross surplus	*Total NHS gross (deficit)*	*Total NHS net (deficit)/ surplus*
1997-98	119	(240)	(121)
1998-99	145	(163)	(18)
1999-2000	144	(273)	(129)
2000-01	153	(41)	112
2001-02	141	(69)	71
2002-03	302	(206)	96
2003-04	338	(265)	73
2004-05	504	(725)	(221)
2005-06	765	(1,312)	(547)
2006-07	1,431	(917)	515

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest million.
2. Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding.
3. Figures for foundation trusts are not included.
4. Audited figures for 2007-08 not yet available.
Source:
Audited Summarisation Schedules

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what objectives Fujitsu *(a)* met and *(b)* did not meet under the terms of its contract; and what effect the termination of the contract will have on the national programme as a whole. [212262]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fujitsu Services Limited delivered some specific benefits, for example in the provision of picture archiving and communications systems, to the national health service, but failed to meet key contractual milestones in the core contract, and failed to provide an acceptable remediation plan.

The consequences for the national programme for IT as a whole from the Department's decision to issue a notice to terminate the contract are expected to be minimal but will become clearer in the period ahead.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he was first informed of difficulties with the Fujitsu contract. [212279]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Connecting for Health, representatives of the national health service locally, and Fujitsu were in negotiation since last summer to address areas of poor product and delivery volumes with the aim of resetting the contract to resolve these difficulties, and in order to address new NHS requirements which had developed since the contract was first let.

Ministers were regularly updated on the progress of negotiations throughout this period.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the national programme for IT benefits statement for 2006-07 and the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, HC 484-I, Session 2007-08, whether the annualised recurrent saving of £119.1 million is a net figure inclusive of the cost of the NPfIT services that have taken the place of the cancelled services. [212298]

Mr. Bradshaw: The £119.1 million figure is for gross savings.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212104]

Mr. Bradshaw: No Ministers or officials from this Department are planning to attend the Games.

Public Participation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to amend the regulatory regime affecting the work of expert witnesses involved in public consultations administered by his Department. [211436]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no plans to amend the regulatory regime affecting the work of expert witnesses involved in public consultations. Public consultations undertaken by the Department and its agencies are compliant with the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation. The code and underpinning criteria do not include any reference to the use of expert witnesses.

Sex Change Operations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sex change operations were carried out *(a)* by the NHS and *(b)* privately in each of the last 10 years. [212176]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department of Health does not collect such information from private healthcare providers.

Following is a table containing the total number of finished consultant episodes where an operative procedure for sexual transformation has been performed in the NHS for the period 1997-98 to 2006-07.

	Finished consultant episodes
2006-07	155
2005-06	146
2004-05	144
2003-04	128
2002-03	118
2001-02	109
2000-01	98
1999-2000	68
1998-99	65
1997-98	78

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what counselling is provided before a sex change operation is carried out *(a)* by the NHS and *(b)* privately; and what criteria must be met. [212177]

Dawn Primarolo: In the NHS, protocols for care pathways for the treatment of gender dysphoria are established locally and so vary. The general pattern would begin by the patients being referred by their general practitioners to a psychiatrist and/or psychologist for assessment.

The Department does not provide specific guidance on treatment for gender dysphoria to private health care establishments.

Smoking: Young People

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce levels of smoking among teenagers. [212814]

Dawn Primarolo: Reducing smoking among young people is a priority for the Government. Much has already been achieved in this area, including raising the age of sale of tobacco products, legislation to strengthen sanctions available against retailers who persistently sell tobacco to children and young people and smoking is address in the national curriculum and through the Healthy Schools programme.

Protecting children and young people from smoking is one of four key aspects of the Department's "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" published on 31 May 2008. Responses to the consultation will inform the development of a new strategy on tobacco control, which will include action to continue to tackle the uptake of smoking by young people.

Social Workers: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the number of practising social workers. [213263]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy, which the Department plans to launch in October 2008, will help employers recruit and retain social workers.

In addition, in 2008-09 we are investing £98 million to continue to support social work education and training. Of this, £62 million is for financial support to social work students undertaking the generic social work degree and this provides a full-time undergraduate student, studying outside London, with a non-repayable, non-means tested bursary of £4,575 and £28 million supports high quality practice placements.

A further £5.5 million supports social work education and training at pre and post qualifying levels, at a regional level, through the Social Work Partnership jointly managed by Skills for Care and Children's Workforce Development Council. The remaining £2.5 million will support the development of the newly qualified social worker status in adults' social care.

Stem Cells

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* diseases and *(b)* conditions have been treated using materials created by research on (i) embryonic stem cells and (ii) adult stem cells since December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [212442]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not routinely collect such information.

Research on adult stem cell therapies, such as bone marrow transplantation, has been undertaken for over half a century. The biological properties of these stem cells have been exploited over the past several decades to develop a number of highly successful treatments including bone marrow transplants—for leukaemia and other haematopoietic conditions, corneal transplants, related donor cord blood transplants and skin grafting.

Human embryonic stem cells were first identified in 1996. Scientific opinion remains that research in these areas will revolutionise the treatment for such conditions in the 21st century but it is still too early to speak of cures.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213500]

Dawn Primarolo: We have not commissioned or funded the production of any television programmes in the last three years or in 2008-09 to date.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of arrests in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England related to activity attributed to excessive alcohol consumption in each year since 1997. [213567]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Details of the circumstances of an arrest are not collected centrally.

Summary offences of 'being drunk and disorderly' are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on its recent advertising campaign on binge drinking. [212765]

Mr. Coaker: At present, £2.3 million has been spent on production costs for advertisements and media booking costs for the summer activity for the 'Know your Limits' campaign.

The overall budget for financial year 2008-09 for the campaign is £4 million which includes; TV, radio, print, outdoor and digital advertising as well as production costs.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* 10 to 13, *(b)* 14 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 year olds were (i) cautioned, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) given a penalty notice for purchasing alcohol under age in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [197365]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The number of young persons aged; 10 to 13, 14 to 15 and 16 to 17-year-olds who were issued with a reprimand/final warning, or proceeded against at magistrates courts, for the offence of purchasing alcohol while under the age of 18 years can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2. From June 2000, cautions for offenders under 18-years-old were replaced by reprimands and final warnings.

The number of young persons aged 16 to 17 who were issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the offence of purchasing alcohol while under the age of 18 years can be viewed in table 3.

Table 1: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years, proceeded against at magistrates courts by certain age groups, for the offence of purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1], by police force areas in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006[1] [2] [3] [4]

	Proceeded against				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	—	—	—
City of London					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	1	—	—
Cumbria					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	1	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	1	—	2
Derbyshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years, proceeded against at magistrates courts by certain age groups, for the offence of purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1], by police force areas in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
14 to 15	1	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	1
Dorset					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Durham					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	1
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
Essex					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	1	—	—
Gloucestershire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	1	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	2	—	1	—
Hampshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	1	—	—	1
16 to 17	—	—	2	3	—
Hertfordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	1	—	—
Kent					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 5	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—
Lancashire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	1	—	—
Leicestershire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years, proceeded against at magistrates courts by certain age groups, for the offence of purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1], by police force areas in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Lincolnshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	1	1	1	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	1	1	—
Metropolitan Police					
10 to 12	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	1	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	2	—	2	—
Northamptonshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	1	—	3	2
Nottinghamshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	2	2	1	—	—
Suffolk					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years, proceeded against at magistrates courts by certain age groups, for the offence of purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1], by police force areas in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—
Warwickshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to17	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—
10-13	—	—	—	—	
14-15	—	—	—	—	—
16-17	—	—	—	—	1
South Wales					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—

Table 1: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years, proceeded against at magistrates courts by certain age groups, for the offence of purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1], by police force areas in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006[1] [2] [3] [4]

	Proceeded against				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England and Wales					
10 to 13	0	0	0	0	0
14 to 15	3	4	1	0	2
16 to 17	10	9	9	14	6

— = Nil.

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor. Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises. Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (section 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 section 169(2). Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18. Licensing Act 2003 section 149(1)(7a).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning by certain age groups for the offence purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1] by police force areas in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006[1] [2] [3] [4]

	Reprimands/Final warnings				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
City of London					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	1	1	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	—	—	—
Cumbria					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	1	2	1	—
16 to 17	4	2	9	4	1
Derbyshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2. Number of young persons under the age of 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning by certain age groups for the offence purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1] by police force areas in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Reprimands/Final warnings				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	1
Durham					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	—	—	1
Essex					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	1	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester					
10 to 13	1	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	2	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	4	—	—	—	—
Hampshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	1	—	1
Hertfordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
Humberside					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Kent					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	1	—	—	—
Leicestershire					
10 to 13	—	1	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	1	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning by certain age groups for the offence purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1] by police force areas in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Reprimands/Final warnings				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Lincolnshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	4	—	—
Metropolitan Police					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	2	—	2
Northamptonshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria					
10 to 13	—	1	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	4	1	2	1
16 to 17	3	—	2	7	1
Nottinghamshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	1	—	1
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—
Staffordshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	2	—	—	1
16 to 7	—	1	—	2	—
Suffolk					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	1	—	—	—	—
Surrey					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning by certain age groups for the offence purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1] by police force areas in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Reprimands/Final warnings				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	1	—
Sussex					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	1	—
16 to 17	1	1	—	—	—
Thames Valley					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	1
14 to 15	—	—	3	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	2	—	—
West Midlands					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	3	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	3	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	4	5	—	—
Gwent					
10 to 13	—	1	—	—	—
14 to 15	1	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales					
10 to 13	—	—	—	—	—
14 to 15	—	—	—	—	—
16 to 17	—	—	—	—	—

7

Table 2: Number of young persons under the age of 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning by certain age groups for the offence purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18[1] by police force areas in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006[2, 3, 4]

	Reprimands/Final warnings				
Force and age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England and Wales					
10 to 13	1	3	0	0	1
14 to 15	5	12	7	7	3
16 to 17	16	12	25	15	7

= Nil

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises. Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 schedule (section 3) para 4(2) Licensing Act 1964 section 169(2). Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18. Licensing Act 2003 section 149(1)(7a).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the data.

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEAU — Office for Criminal Justice Reform – Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: Number of young persons aged 16 to 17 years issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence "buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18" in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Buying alcohol by person under 18	*Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18*
Police force	*2005[4]*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—
British Transport Police	—	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—
Cheshire	—	—
Cleveland	—	—
Cumbria	—	4
Derbyshire	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	3
Dorset	—	—
Durham	—	—
Essex	1	—
Gloucestershire	—	1
Greater Manchester	1	—
Hampshire	—	1
Hertfordshire	—	13
Humberside	1	2
Kent	—	1
Lancashire	2	9
Leicestershire	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	1
London, City of	—	—
Merseyside	5	7
Metropolitan Police	—	—
Norfolk	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—
Northumbria	1	2
Nottinghamshire	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—
Staffordshire	—	7
Suffolk	—	—
Surrey	—	1
Sussex	5	3
Thames Valley	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—
West Mercia	—	2
West Midlands	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—
England	16	59
Dyfed-Powys	—	—
Gwent	—	1
North Wales	1	2
South Wales	—	—
Wales	1	3
England and Wales	17	62

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Buying/attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18. Licensing Act 1964 Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18. Section 149(1)of the Licensing Act 2003 (c.17)

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] This offence came into force on 4 April 2005.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEAU — Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were of defendants aged 10 to 17 years for being drunk and disorderly in each London borough in each year since 1997. [213812]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 189W.

Data broken down by London borough are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18 year olds were given antisocial behaviour orders in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District in each year since their introduction. [213329]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not collected centrally below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

ASBOs became available from 1 April 1999. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 May 2000, data on the number of ASBOs issued were not collected broken down by age. Therefore it is not possible to determine how many of the 104 ASBOs issued in England and Wales during that period were issued to young people aged between 10-17 years old at the time the ASBO was issued.

The number of ASBOs issued to young people in the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006 (latest available) is shown in the table. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders ISSUED to juveniles[1] at all courts in the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 2000[2]-06

	CJS area West Yorkshire
2000[2]	2
2001	9
2002	11
2003	60
2004	156
2005	115
2006	81
Total	434

[1] Defined as being 10-17 years old at the time the ASBO was issued.

[2] From 1 June 2000.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Prepared by CJEAU, Ministry of Justice.

Cannabis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to making the sale and supply of cannabis seeds illegal. [201695]

Mr. Coaker: Cannabis seeds are not illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, although the unauthorised cultivation of cannabis seeds and any subsequent supply and possession of cannabis is unlawful. On 7 May the Home Secretary accepted the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' recommendation to assess the extent to which the trade in cannabis paraphernalia, including seeds, might be more effectively regulated. The availability of cannabis seeds is a concern and this matter is currently under review.

Crime: Victims

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides for the families of those who have died as a result of criminal conduct on the interpretation of *(a)* DNA testing and results and *(b)* other expert evidence arising during criminal investigations. [213612]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office does not produce detailed guidance on the interpretation of DNA test results and other expert evidence intended for bereaved families. However, 'Advice for Bereaved Families and Friends Following Murder or Manslaughter' has been produced with the involvement of victims' groups, and is distributed to bereaved families through police family liaison officers (PFLOs). This document explains how DNA taken from living relatives can be used to identify victims and advises relatives to seek further details from PFLOs. A revised version of this document is expected to be published towards the end of the year.

A range of guidance on DNA and murder investigation is also produced for police forces. The Association of Chief Police Officers has produced a DNA good practice manual; a murder investigation manual; and a best practice guide on the use of familial searching (i.e. identification through use of relatives' DNA).

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Ruislip-Northwood constituency in each of the last five years. [212799]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Domestic Violence: Reoffenders

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to reduce levels of domestic violence reoffending. [212695]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are approaching this issue from two perspectives. Firstly, there is a focus on the protection of victims through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) which identify those victims most at risk of serious harm and develop interventions to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation and by managing the offender.

Secondly, three accredited domestic abuse perpetrator programmes have been developed for convicted domestic abuse perpetrators. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) and the Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP) have been fully implemented in all probation areas in England and Wales. The Healthy Relationships Programme (HRP) is run in custody. To ensure the effectiveness of the programmes, a range of evaluation projects has been commissioned. We are also continuing to support the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) under which police, probation and prison services in each of the 42 areas in England and Wales work together with social care, health, housing and education services to assess and manage the most serious sexual and violent offenders.

A domestic abuse strategy for the National Offender Management Service is being developed. This will build upon the principles contained in the National Probation Service National Interim Domestic Abuse Policy and Strategy.

Drugs: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mobile equipment each police force operating in the Greater London area uses to test for the presence of illegal drugs. [211592]

Mr. Coaker: As regards drivers suspected of being impaired by drugs, I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 342W. As regards other drug testing, the Drug Interventions programme (DIP) uses drug screening equipment situated in designated police custody suites as authorised under legislation. Of police forces operating in London, only the Metropolitan and City of London Police conduct DIP tests, the British Transport Police do not. Information is not collected centrally on any other tests the police may conduct for the presence of drugs, or any equipment which they use.

Homicide: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many murders were committed in Bournemouth in each of the last five years, broken down by type of weapon used. [212465]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Information collected centrally about the apparent method of killing for homicides in England and Wales cannot be broken down further than police force area level. Available data, relating to homicides recorded by Dorset police up to and including 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing, Dorset police force area, 2002-03 to 2006-07[3]

Apparent method of killing	Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2] 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Sharp instrument[4]	3	6	0	0	2
Blunt instrument[5]	1	2	1	1	0
Hitting, kicking, etc.	0	0	1	1	1
Strangulation[6]	1	0	2	0	0
Shooting[7]	0	0	0	0	0
Explosion	0	0	0	0	1
Burning	0	0	0	0	0
Drowning	0	0	1	0	0
Poison or drugs	1	0	0	0	1
Motor vehicle[8]	0	0	1	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0	1
Not known	0	0	0	0	0

[1] As at 12 November 2007, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.
[4] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[5] Including firearms used as a blunt instrument.
[6] Including asphyxiation.
[7] Including shooting by crossbow. Excludes homicides where firearms used as a blunt instrument.
[8] Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Homicide: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there were in Essex in the last 10 years, broken down by method of killing. [213011]

Mr. Coaker: Aggregate data, relating to homicides recorded by Essex police between 1997-98 and 2006-07, are shown in the following table.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing, Essex police force area, combined data for 1997-98 to 2006-07[2]

Apparent method of killing	Number
Sharp instrument[3]	54
Blunt instrument[4]	10
Hitting, kicking, etc	20
Strangulation[5]	18
Shooting[6]	10
Explosion	1
Burning	7
Drowning	1
Poison or drugs	3
Motor vehicle[7]	3
Other	17
Not known	11
Total	155

[1] As at 12 November 2007, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.
[3] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[4] Including firearms used as a blunt instrument.
[5] Including asphyxiation.
[6] Including shooting by crossbow. Excludes homicides where firearms used as a blunt instrument.
[7] Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will attend the meeting of the All Party Group on Trafficking of Women and Children on 24 June in the House of Commons to discuss with the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire the work of Pentameter 2 on trafficking in Britain. [213426]

Mr. Coaker: It is the Government's stated position that the operational outcomes of Pentameter 2 will be announced following the end of the operation. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is unable to attend the event on 24 June due to diary commitments; however I shall be happy to discuss this operation with the All Party Parliamentary Group at a future date as part of my previous commitment to keep the House informed on progress made in tackling human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 347W, and 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on Human trafficking: Children, if she will *(a)* confirm that a full copy of the report will be placed in the Library and *(b)* publish the report before the end of June. [212826]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 June to this question. I can confirm a copy of the summary report will be placed in the Library but cannot say when it will be published as the report is being finalised by CEOP.

Hunting

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been reported of threatening or abusive behaviour towards hunt monitors by supporters of hunting with dogs in the last 12 months; what steps are being taken to prevent illegal hunting activity and to enforce the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [209678]

Mr. Coaker: Data on threatening or abusive behaviour towards hunt monitors are not collected centrally.

The police have stated their commitment to enforcing the Hunting Act. The Government continue to meet with interested stakeholders and to work closely with the police, through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to identify what more can be done to ensure the Hunting Act is effectively and appropriately enforced and to improve detection of illegal hunting.

ACPO have conducted a survey of local police forces' response to enforcement of the Hunting Act which will be used to inform practical best practice guidance ahead of the start of the hunting season. The Government are also working with ACPO on ways to raise awareness of issues surrounding enforcement of the Hunting Act across the police service, and to communicate the importance of visible enforcement to community policing in rural areas and to the maintenance of public order.

We are also working closely with the Attorney-General about what more can be done to secure prosecutions where evidence has been presented of Hunting Act offences being committed.

Twenty-nine individuals have now been convicted of offences under the Hunting Act 2004 which does show that the legislation is enforceable when the evidence presents itself.

Identity and Passport Service: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the error rate in each of the databases operated by the Identity and Passport Service. [180258]

Meg Hillier: Currently, replication checks exist between the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) regional and central system databases. These replication checks mean that all IPS issued books are accounted for and no errors exist.

IPS does receive external feeds of passport data from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the processing of these onto the central database creates errors, and an error recycling process. The current error rates are 1.22 per cent.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter of 24 April 2008 from the hon. Member for Ilford South on his constituent Mr Dominic Brown and the request for a visit visa for Ms Saeeda Begum following the outcome of her appeal on 20 February 2008, reference 1403584. [209422]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The UK Border Agency's Visa Services Directorate replied to the hon. Member's letter to the Chief Executive on 3 June 2008.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's enquiry of 16 May 2008 regarding Aneesha Sajawal ref: GV100/129558. [211466]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency replied to the right hon. Member's inquiry on 9 June 2008.

Police: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of the High Court case between the Police Federation and the Government on the police pay award has been. [211524]

Jacqui Smith: We do not yet have complete information on the cost of the Judicial Review concerning the 2007 Police Officer Pay Award. It is estimated the total Home Office legal costs will be approximately £45,000.

Theft: Pets

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of theft of domestic animals in England and Wales there were in each of the last five years. [213471]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to separately identify those offences where a domestic animal is stolen. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and they would be included within the 'Other theft' offence classification.

Unfair Practices: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what value of assets stolen as a result of boiler room fraud was *(a)* traced, *(b)* frozen, *(c)* seized and *(d)* returned to victims in each of the last three years. [206947]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cancer: Bone Diseases

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged *(a)* under 18 years old, *(b)* 18 to 30 years old and *(c)* over 30 years old were diagnosed with bone cancer in (i) Lancashire and (ii) nationally in each of the last five years. [213669]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged (a) under 18 years old, (b) 18-30 years old and (c) over 30 years old were diagnosed with bone cancer in (i) Lancashire and (ii) nationally in each of the last five years. [213669]

The most recent available figures for cancer incidence are for 2005. To avoid inadvertent disclosure due to small numbers, figures for age groups 'under 30' and '30 and over' are provided for (i) Lancashire. These are given in the table below, together with figures for those aged (a) under 18 years old, (b) 18-29 years old and (c) 30 years old and over in (ii) England.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bone cancer[1], by age group, Lancashire county and England, 2001-05

Persons

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Lancashire	Under 30[2]	3	7	3	6	7
	30 and over	8	3	7	8	8
England	Under 18	94	101	83	65	75
	18-29	62	55	63	45	62
	30 and over	312	277	273	264	277

[1] Bone cancer is coded to C40-C41 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Figures for age groups 'under 18' and '18-29' have been added together to avoid inadvertent disclosure due to small numbers.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Cultural Diversity Framework: Procurement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which stakeholders are consulted in the process of deciding a supplier to the Cultural Diversity Framework and Approved Supplier List; [205545]

(2) what the stages are in becoming an approved supplier on the Cultural Diversity Framework and Approved Supplier List. [205546]

Edward Miliband: The process for becoming an approved supplier on the Cultural Diversity Framework and the Approved Supplier List are set out as follows:

The Cultural Diversity Framework was set up in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. The framework was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) using the restricted procedure, in trade journals and on Central Office of Information's (COI) buyer profile.

Suppliers wishing to be on the framework were directed to the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ). Suppliers were required to complete the PQQ, which was available for 30 days after publishing. The PQQs were then scored and evaluated against the published award criteria.

Successful suppliers were invited to the next stage where they were provided with a fictitious brief. Suppliers were given 40 days in which to complete the brief and were asked to pitch at their own premises as part of a site visit. This was also scored and evaluated against published award criteria.

Those successful at this stage were assessed as to whether they had shown capability to deliver services under each of the published lots and labels, and were given the opportunity to sit on the framework.

The Approved Supplier List was advertised on the Supply2Gov website, in trade journals and COI's buyer profile. Potential suppliers were required to complete a PQQ, which was available for 30 days after publishing. The PQQs were then scored and evaluated against the published award criteria.

Successful suppliers were asked to present case study examples at their premises, which were scored and evaluated against the published award criteria. The framework renewal team's recommendations were agreed and signed off by the COI director of news and PR.

Although no stakeholders were directly involved with the process of selecting suppliers for the Cultural Diversity Framework and Approved Supplier List, the COI undertakes regular formal and informal discussions with a wide variety of those stakeholders during its normal business activities, including the issue of how the framework should be structured and the types of supplier that are needed.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 521W, on departmental aviation, how many separate air flights were carbon offset by the Cabinet Office in 2006-07 via the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. [210949]

Phil Hope: Since April 2005 all air travel is being offset as part of Cabinet Office membership of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212864]

Phil Hope: Information on capital expenditure is contained in the annual resource accounts for the Cabinet Office. Information on expenditure on refurbishment works over the last 10 years, broken down by project, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212881]

Phil Hope: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Information on the valuation of the Department's property portfolio is reported in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts, available in the House of Commons Library. Subject to the National Audit Office's annual audit, the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 are expected to be published before the 2008 summer recess.

(b) Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) of the Cabinet Office are included in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts. The executive NDPBs of the Cabinet Office are:

Capacity Builders (UK) Limited

Commission for the Compact Limited.

These bodies publish their own annual accounts.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(c)* the Office of the Minister for the Olympics are authorised to work from home. [212531]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1913W.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the occupiers of the official ministerial residences in *(a)* Admiralty House, *(b)* Downing Street, *(c)* 1 Carlton Gardens, *(d)* Dorneywood and *(e)* Chequers receive subsistence. [210870]

Phil Hope: The allowances payable to Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords are a matter for Parliament.

Ministers do not receive departmental subsistence payments.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in (i) the Cabinet Office, (ii) the Prime Minister's Office and (iii) the Offices of the Minister for the Olympics in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212491]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office and the Offices of the Minister for the Olympics form part of the Cabinet Office. The pay scales for permanent Cabinet Office staff by pay band are as follows:

Grade	*Hourly rate (£)*
London and Basingstoke	
A	21.37
B2	13.97
B-Fst	12.65
B1	11.02
C	8.93
TIS3	17.01
TIS2	14.64
TIS1	10.53
National	
A	19.24
B2	13.54
B1	9.85
C	8.15

Information on the average pay per hour worked by temporary staff is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what subscriptions *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agency holds for (i) premium satellite, (ii) digital terrestrial and (iii) cable television channels; and what the cost of each was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210900]

Phil Hope: My Department holds three subscriptions for premium satellite services and the total cost for the 2007-08 financial year was £5,589. The Department does not subscribe to digital terrestrial or cable television services.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the Prime Minister's Office. [212485]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect and the First Division Association (FDA) have a partnership agreement with the Cabinet Office and represent different sections of Cabinet Office staff.

Manpower: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what staff have been appointed to work in the Prime Minister's Office since 31 December 2007; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* job title is of each such newly-appointed staff member. [211676]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W. This information is available annually.

Publications: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what reports have been produced but not published by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in each of the last five years. [211679]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit works closely, and often jointly, with other Government Departments and external stakeholders on a broad range of domestic policy issues. The majority of Strategy Unit reports lead to published outputs. These can include a White Paper, Green Paper, a statement of Government policy, or a report published in the Unit's own name.

Further information on Strategy Unit outputs can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy

JUSTICE

Absent Voting: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions of postal ballot fraud there were in each region of the UK in each of the last 11 years. [212768]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not held centrally in this form. However, information on the overall number of persons found guilty of various fraud related offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983 between 1998 and 2006 is set out in the following table.

Persons found guilty in England and Wales of various fraud related offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983

	Number
1998	6
1999	5
2000	1
2001	10
2002	1
2003	0
2004	3
2005	5
2006	1

Notes:

1. Convictions do not necessarily occur in the same year that proceedings are initiated.
2. Offences under the Representation of the People Act include tampering with nomination and ballot papers etc. making false declarations as to election expenses, bribery, treating, undue influence and personation offences.
3. Figures for 2002 exclude any cases in Staffordshire.

We are also aware that other prosecutions relating to electoral matters have been made under separate provisions, such those relating to forgery or conspiracy to defraud.

The Electoral Commission has plans in place to analyse the Crown Prosecution files on electoral fraud post 2006. This process will help to provide an up to date record of the number of successful electoral fraud prosecutions.

We are continuing to work closely with the Electoral Commission, police, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted.

Chelmsford Prison

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of whether to make HMP Chelmsford a category C prison; and what factors he has taken into account in that assessment; [213025]

(2) what proportion of young offenders in Chelmsford Prison are *(a)* local to the area and *(b)* come from outside the local prison catchment area; [213027]

(3) what steps are being taken to reduce the proportion of young offenders in Chelmsford Prison who come from London and elsewhere outside the catchment area for the local prison; [213028]

(4) what recent change there has been to the capacity of the young offender facility at Rochester; and what effect this has had on numbers of young offenders from London being placed in Chelmsford Prison. [213029]

Maria Eagle: There are no plans, at present, to re-categorise HMP/YOI Chelmsford from a category B local prison and young offender institution to a category C training prison.

The number of young offenders (YOs) held at Chelmsford who are from Essex is 62. The number of YOs from outside the area is 182. The prison serves some courts from within London.

Chelmsford serves the YO population for London and the South East of England. In its management of the YO population, the National Offender Management Service tries to ensure that young offenders are held as close to their home area as possible. However, prison population pressures mean that some YOs from outside the local area need to be held at HMP/YOI Chelmsford at present.

Changes to capacity at HMYOI Rochester have not yet taken place. We anticipate that the planned 300 additional places at Rochester will be available by October this year with around 50 further places expected at a future date. This will enable us to review the YO catchment area for Chelmsford and to consider plans to reduce the number of YOs held there from outside the area.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic air flights members of *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies made within mainland Britain in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [211113]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is as follows:

Number of Domestic Flights

The number of domestic air flights taken by members of the Department and its agencies can be provided only at a disproportionate cost, as this information is not held at one central point.

Cost of Domestic Flights

The cost of domestic air flights for the Department and its agencies may be provided only at a disproportionate cost. This type of expenditure is not separately identifiable within accounting systems, as it is included in travel and subsistence as a whole.

All official travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively. Copies of these are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211693]

Mr. Wills: It is not possible to provide details of the amount spent by the Department on organising and hosting conferences in the last 12 months as this information is not held centrally and could only be obtained by manually contacting each division within my Department at a disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the sanctions in relation to voter registration brought in under recent legislation will be brought into force; and if he will make a statement. [212767]

Bridget Prentice: A new offence of supplying false information of any kind to a registration officer in connection with electoral registration, came into force in time for the 2006 annual canvass. Anyone found guilty of the supplying false information at registration can be fined up to £5,000 or sentenced to up to six months' imprisonment.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will bring forward proposals to establish ring-fenced funding for electoral registration officers; [212769]

(2) what assessment he has made of trends in the annual expenditure of local authority electoral registration officers over the last 10 years. [212770]

Bridget Prentice: There are no proposals to ring-fence funding for electoral registration activities. Funding is included in the local authority formula grant issued by central Government. Once these funds are allocated, decisions on how it is utilised are a matter for the local authorities concerned. However, there is also a parallel protocol, which states that unless there is an exceptional reason to do so, money provided to local authorities for discharging their statutory responsibilities should not be 'ring-fenced'.

There has been no assessment of the trends in the annual expenditure of local authority electoral registration officers over the past 10 years.

However, section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 allows the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. In developing standards the Commission undertook a data collection exercise with all electoral registration officers (EROs) in Great Britain following the 2007 annual canvass and published results on April 30 2008. At the same time EROs were asked to supply financial data by 31 July 2008. These results are expected to be published by autumn 2008 and should give us a better understanding of the costs of electoral registration in Great Britain for the last financial year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to *(a)* enable, *(b)* encourage and *(c)* require electoral registration officers to consult other (i) local and (ii) central Government databases to (A) cross-check and (B) augment their compilation of electoral registers. [212771]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral registration officers (EROs) are required to take all necessary steps to register eligible electors and were granted the power to inspect records held by any person that the ERO is permitted to inspect.

The Electoral Commission has issued guidance to EROs encouraging them to use this power and advises of the records that may be inspected which will help to provide and cross-check additional information to assist them in their registration duties.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding of local authority registration officers in relation to their objectives to increase voter registration; what assessment he has made of the relationship between additional funding and increased voter registration; and if he will make a statement. [212772]

Bridget Prentice: As part of the development of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which included a new duty to undertake work to ensure all eligible people were registered to vote, a need for additional resources was identified. Monies were made available to support this work as part of the funding provided for the implementation of the Act.

Section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 allows the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. In developing standards the Commission undertook a data collection exercise with all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain following the 2007 annual canvass and published results on April 30 2008. At the same time EROs were asked to supply financial data by 31 July 2008. These results are expected to be published by autumn 2008 and should give us a better understanding of the costs of electoral registration in Great Britain for the last financial year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect that individual voter registration would have on *(a)* levels of voter registration and *(b)* the accuracy of the register; and if he will make a statement. [212845]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any assessment of the impact that individual voter registration is likely to have on the levels of registration and the accuracy of the register, but we are aware that any new system of electoral registration in GB would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration.

The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. But this will be a far-reaching reform, and it will need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: we want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the United Kingdom's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether incentives are available for the participation of local authority chief executives in electoral administration; and if he will make a statement. [212922]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral administration in England and Wales is the responsibility of returning officers and electoral registration officers. Although they are by statute local authority officials, they act independently when carrying out their electoral duties. In law, local authority chief executives have no role in electoral administration, however, in practice they are often the returning officer or electoral registration officer and so should be aware of the duties of these posts and their importance.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 included at section 67 provisions to enable the Electoral Commission to set performance standards for electoral administration and to require returning officers and electoral registration officers to report on how they have met those standards. The intention is to encourage all administrators to reach the standards of the best. We would expect local authority chief executives to be concerned if their local authority was seen to be under-performing in this area.

In addition, my Department provides funding through its Participation Fund to electoral officers in support of their duty to take such steps as they consider necessary to encourage electoral participation in their areas. The intention is to encourage electoral officers to pursue activities aimed at increasing awareness of and involvement in the democratic process and raising the profile of electoral issues.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to collect information on *(a)* the revenue raised by local authorities from the sale of electoral registers and *(b)* the use to which such monies are put; and if he will make a statement. [212924]

Bridget Prentice: The Government do not intend to take steps to collect information on the revenue raised from the sale of electoral registers. The fees charged for the sale of the registers are set with a view towards recovery of the costs of administration. Local authorities do not sell copies of the electoral register for profit, as governed by the Representation of the People Regulations 2001 (as amended in 2002).

Electoral Register: Fines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities have initiated proceedings to levy a fine on households who do not submit a register of electors form in response to the annual canvass since the sanction was brought into force. [212844]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not collected centrally. However, I understand that only a few local authorities have initiated proceedings for failure to complete and return an annual registration.

Electoral Registration Officers have a duty to compile and maintain an accurate register and they have a number of mechanisms available to them in achieving this including the new duty. It is a decision for them, whether they initiate proceedings for non-completion of the annual canvass form.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what rate of interest is paid by the National Offender Management Service when it does not pay invoices promptly in accordance with its procedures. [212831]

Mr. Hanson: Where the National Offender Management Service does not pay a valid invoice on time, it will abide by the conditions and rates set out in the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 as amended 2002 should the supplier wish to invoke its rights under the Act.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timescale is by which the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is expected to pay invoices when full details of the payee have been registered on the NOMS computerised system. [212832]

Mr. Hanson: Exact timescales are determined according to the negotiations with individual suppliers, but most commonly the National Offender Management Service contracts stipulate that payment shall be made to the supplier within 30 days of receipt by NOMS (at its nominated address for invoices) of the supplier's valid original invoice, including full seven-digit official purchase order number.

Polling Stations: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for grants to ensure disabled access at polling stations were made by Warrington borough council in each of the last three years; and how much was awarded on each occasion. [212633]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Claims Unit has confirmed that no applications have been received from Warrington borough council for grants to ensure or improve disabled access at polling stations.

Prisoners' Release

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicts served sentences of less than seven days of their sentence in prison before being released under the end of custody licence. [213624]

Mr. Hanson: No prisoners have been released on ECL after serving less than seven days in custody. Prisoners must serve a minimum of seven days in custody, from date of sentence, before they can be released on ECL.

The full policy on ECL is set out in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007. This may be found on the Prison Service's website:

psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/
PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of subsistence payments made to offenders released on end of custody licence since June 2007 was. [213344]

Mr. Straw: A total of £1,953,854 in subsistence payments is recorded as having been paid to prisoners released on End of Custody Licence (ECL) between 29 June 2007 and 31 March 2008. This figure has been compiled from a number of local data sources, and as such is subject to a margin of possible recording error. During this period a total of 23,716 prisoners were released on ECL. Subsistence payments are made because prisoners on an ECL are released under temporary licence from prison in accordance with the provisions of the Prisons Act 1952 and, as such, are statutorily ineligible to receive benefits payments.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 647W, on prisoners' release: reoffenders, how many of the alleged further offences committed by offenders on end of custody licence were, *(a)* robbery, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* theft and handling, *(d)* fraud and forgery and *(e)* drug offences. [213345]

Mr. Straw: Of the 26,347 offenders who have been placed on the end of custody licence scheme, 894 (3.4 per cent.) have been recalled to custody. Of those offenders notified to NOMS by 16 May 2008 as having allegedly committed a further offence during their period on ECL, nine of the offences were alleged robbery; 41 alleged burglary; 139 alleged theft and handling; four alleged fraud and forgery; and 12 alleged drug offences.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will increase expenditure on research into the biomedical causes and consequences of myalgic encephalopathy. [213043]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) is a strategic priority area for the MRC and the Council is continuing to promote research in this area. The MRC does not have set budgets for specific illnesses and research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The MRC welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

The MRC currently supports a number of studies in CFS/ME, as follows:

Professor K. Bhui, Queen Mary and Westfield College chronic fatigue and ethnicity (£162,000).

Dr. C. Clark, Centre for Psychiatry, Barts and The London School of Medicine general and specific risk markers and preventive factors for chronic fatigue and irritable bowel syndrome (funding approved in November 2007, £367,000).

Professor A. J. Weardon, University of Manchester randomised controlled trial of nurse led self-help treatment for primary care patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (£743,000).

Professor P. D. White et al, Queen Mary and Westfield College The PACE Trial: a RCT of CBT, graded exercise, adaptive pacing and usual medical care for the chronic fatigue syndrome (£2.07 million).

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210981]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS operates two financial ledgers and therefore has two charts of accounts. Copies of both DIUS charts of accounts will be placed in the Library. The charts of accounts for 2008-09 reflect the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect past or future years.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212321]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created on 28 June 2007. Since then, DIUS has not commissioned any independent inquiries.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208377]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created in the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007 when staff from the ex-Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) were incorporated into the new Department. Only staff from DTI (now BERR) have received performance-related bonuses so far as staff who transferred from ex DfES received their performance awards for performance year 2007-08 prior to the Department being created. The following table sets out their numbers and proportions.

	HSP	*Total staff*	*Percentage with performance awards*
Gender			
Male	29	130	22
Female	27	83	33

	HSP	Total staff	Percentage with performance awards
Ethnicity			
White	29	114	25
BME	8	23	35
Unknown	19	76	25
Disability			
No	51	181	28
Yes	5	22	23
All staff			
Total	56	213	26

The figures are based on performance appraisal markings at 31 March 2008. Staff who received performance-related bonuses are those classified as highly successful performers (HSP). Information on those employees who are not heterosexual is not available. Gender, ethnicity and disability figures are based on employee self-declaration.

Information on bonuses for 2008 for all DIUS staff will available when pay negotiations are settled later in the year.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much sick pay to staff in his Department and its predecessor cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212002]

Mr. Lammy: Due to the wide range of posts and salary points in my Department, the actual cost of sick pay to staff in the Department could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department's general policy for full-time staff is to pay sickness absence on full pay for up to 182 days, followed by sickness absence on half pay for up to 183 days. Sickness absence is unpaid once entitlement to full and/or half pay has been exhausted, unless HR approves payment of sick pay at pension rate.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which trade unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212480]

Mr. Lammy: There are currently three trade unions recognised in the Department and its agencies and who represent members of my staff. They are the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, the FDA representing senior staff and Prospect representing specialists such as information officers, economists, statisticians and accountants.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210567]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209241]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS will shortly publish its first Sustainable Development Action Plan as a new Department, which will include its carbon reduction strategy. There will be a number of measures relating to reducing carbon emissions from travel within that strategy. We will place a copy in the Library.

English Language: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W, on English Language: Education, whether he has assessed the effectiveness of the changes introduced to the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages; and if he will make a statement. [212960]

Bill Rammell: The intention behind the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) measures which were introduced from August 2007 was to refocus funding on priority groups of vulnerable learners. We expect ESOL funding in 2007/08 to remain broadly similar to previous years at around £300 million.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) plans to undertake analysis of ESOL data captured through their individual learner record (ILR). This analysis will draw out patterns of delivery in 2007/08 compared to 2006/07, however, this can only be undertaken once full year data is available in October 2008. Any earlier analysis on partial data would require increased assumptions and caveats making the results less robust.

In addition, I also commissioned an independent impact assessment report. The final report is expected later this month, however, initial feedback suggests a very mixed picture across England with some areas reporting successful engagement with the new ESOL funding measures and others less so.

As a result of the consultation process, we expect to introduce further changes from September 2009. The consultation has shown broad support for the proposal that ESOL funding should be more specifically targeted to foster community cohesion and integration in our communities. We are developing proposals that will give greater flexibility, more consideration of local needs, and importantly, more of a focus on helping build cohesion in our communities.

Music: Copyright

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the application of copyright regulations to beneficiaries of musicians and publishers on the music and publishing industries. [211585]

Ian Pearson: The Government have made no such assessment of the effect of the application of copyright regulations to beneficiaries of musicians and publishers on the music and publishing industries.

However, the hon. Member will remember the recent Gowers Review, undertaken in 2006, which looked at the broad framework of copyright and the effect of the regulations on industry.

Student Loans Company: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the Student Loans Company has sold any personal data to third parties since 2001. [212682]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company has not sold personal data to third parties since 2001.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made towards the development of a carbon budget for 2009; which Minister is leading the work on the development of the carbon budget, and if he will make a statement. [210737]

Angela Eagle: The Government continue to work to ensure the successful passage of the Climate Change Bill, which will create a statutory duty for the Government to set and meet five-year carbon budgets. The Government welcomed the formation in February of the independent Committee on Climate Change in "shadow", non-statutory form, and looks forward to receiving the Committee's advice this autumn, which will include recommendations on the levels of the first three carbon budgets.

The Government intend to set out the carbon budgets and their plans to meet them next year. Analytical and policy work is being undertaken by Departments and Ministers across Government in preparation for this, under the direction of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Energy of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Development, whose members are listed on the Cabinet Office website.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213223]

Angela Eagle: The accounting policy regarding depreciation is disclosed in note 1.4 of the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 (HC 518). Copies of this document are available in the Library of the House and can also be found at:

hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm

These policies remain in force for 2007-08.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213688]

Angela Eagle: No new builds or refurbishments were undertaken by the Treasury during the last three years.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213712]

Angela Eagle: None.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, which former special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused permission by his Department to take up an outside appointment on leaving their post since May 2005. [210919]

Angela Eagle: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1190-91W.

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 50W, on voluntary pay, if he will list the organisations for which members of his Departments have volunteered while on special leave. [211893]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1691W.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research on the experience of other EU member states in operating fuel duty derogations in rural areas. [212381]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: The Government recognises that high fuel prices—caused by conditions in the global oil market—are having an impact on business and families around the UK. For this reason, the Chancellor deferred the planned fuel duty increase of 2p per litre at Budget.

The Treasury keeps all taxes under review and the Chancellor will consider the case for the planned 2p per litre increase on 1 October at that time. The Government are aware of the fuel duty derogations that operate in other EU member states.

Expenditure: Health

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure on health has been as a proportion of gross domestic product in each year since 1997-98; and what estimate he has made of that proportion for each year to 2010-11. [213493]

Yvette Cooper: There has been an unprecedented investment in health services since 1997. The NHS budget has increased from £35 billion in 1997-08 to £96 billion in 2008-09 and is forecast to increase to £109.8 billion by 2010-11.

Expenditure on health as a proportion of gross domestic product for 1997-98 to 2006-2007 is given in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) for 2008, as well as an estimate for 2007-08. The Comprehensive Spending Review did not include projections of future health expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the personal income tax allowance by *(a)* £1,000, *(b)* £2,000 and *(c)* £4,000 with a basic rate tax band of (i) 0 to £36,000, (ii) 0 to £35,000, (iii) 0 to £34,000 and (iv) 0 to £32,000; and if he will make a statement. [212716]

Jane Kennedy: Approximate Exchequer effects of increasing the income tax personal allowance and changing the basic rate limit can be derived from table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 29 April, on the charity ATE, PO Ref 1/56922/2008. [209695]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff affected by the proposed closure of Truro tax office are to be *(a)* relocated, *(b)* re-trained and *(c)* made redundant. [212595]

Jane Kennedy: A decision has not yet been taken on the future of the HMRC office in Truro. HMRC is reviewing all its accommodation to match it to future business needs. On 11 June, it issued proposals for all its offices in Cornwall, including the offices in St. Austell and Truro, both of which are in the hon. Member's constituency. At present, there is a proposal to withdraw from Truro, with the exception of the inquiry centre services which will be maintained in the locality, but no decision has been made to close it.

Consultation on these proposals runs until 6 August, and it is hoped that decisions will be announced before the end of the year.

Staff relocation and other options will be examined in more detail during the feasibility stage of the consultation.

Revenue and Customs: Operating Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average operating cost of tax offices in England was in the last period for which figures are available. [212597]

Jane Kennedy: The average fixed accommodation cash running cost in 2007-08 for HMRC offices in England was £205 (net of VAT) per square metre.

This cost is made up of the PFI unitary charge for the provision of the serviced accommodation in PFI properties, rent and landlord service charge for non-PFI properties, facilities management costs (the provision of soft services, e.g. security and cleaning), business rates and utilities.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were located at each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [212914]

Jane Kennedy: The following tables show the location of HM Revenue and Customs (and joint numbers of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise) staff recorded as being in offices in Scotland on the 1 April for each of the previous five years (full time equivalent (FTE) and actual headcount).

1 April 2004

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Aberdeen	Custom House	108.1	114
	Ruby House	177.44	192
Ayr	Russell House	94.36	104
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	15.53	16
Buckie	Moray House	14.65	16
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	34.26	36
Cumbernauld	St Mungos Road	1,325.57	1,478
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	26.36	28
Dumfries	161 Brooms Road	41.65	48
	Government Buildings	1	1
Dundee	Caledonian House	236.97	246
	Sidlaw House	635.1	676
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	36.82	38
Dunoon	Auchencraig	11.97	13
East Kilbride	Plaza Tower	627.02	674
	Queensway House	1,299.92	1,416
Edinburgh	Argyle House	5.86	6
	Clarendon House	120.44	126
	Edinburgh Airport	6	6

1 April 2004

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
	Edinburgh Conts Agency CA	13.05	15
	Elgin House	346.4	358
	Grayfield House	487.26	510
	Haymarket House	49	49
	Meldrum House	201.48	144
	Mulberry House	1	1
	Saughton House	383.25	398
	Trinity Park House	0.61	1
	York Place	268.4	273
Elgin	Elgin (Phoenix House)	5	5
Falkirk	Grahame House	29.2	32
Galashiels	Galashiels BO	1	3
	Government Buildings	18.54	22
Glasgow	Blythswood House	266.19	281
	Cotton House	152.97	172
	Glasgow Airport	7	7
	Portcullis House	417.9	429
	Mosspark	6.68	7
Glenrothes	Saltire House	160.12	168
Grangemouth	Custom House	38.5	39
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	43.12	46
	Custom House	59.4	66
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	41.47	45
Hawick	Crown Buildings	14.51	15
Inverness	Longman House	10	10
	River House	97.47	108
Irvine	Marress House	36.68	39
Lerwick	Charlotte House	3	3
Livingston	Pentland House	275.68	298
	Silverburn House	873.56	950
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	33	35
Oban	Cameron House	1	3
Paisley	Gilmour House	40.97	45
	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	210.4	212
Perth	1-3 Water Vennel	33.14	36
Peterhead	Keith House	21.34	23
Prestwick	Cargo House	6.5	7
Rothesay	9 King Street	11.61	12
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	51.68	57
Stranraer	Police Station	1	1
Ullapool	24 West Argyll St	1	1
Wick	Government Buildings	25.05	29
	Custom House	1	1

1 April 2005

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Aberdeen	Custom House	110.8	117
	Ruby House	170.82	185
Ayr	Russell House	85.25	94
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	311.34	331
Buckie	Moray House	15.49	17
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	32.53	34
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	22.36	24
Dumfries	161 Brooms Road	46.24	50
	Government Buildings	3	3
Dundee	Caledonian House	234.41	244
	Sidlaw House	618.32	660
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	35.33	37
Dunoon	Auchencraig	12.54	13
Edinburgh	Argyle House	32.65	35
	Clarendon House	114.18	118
	Edinburgh Airport	5	5
	Elgin House	345.13	356
	Grayfield House	454.07	478
	Haymarket House	45.62	46
	Meldrum House	194.22	202
	Pentland House	265.38	288
	Saughton House	384.38	399
	Silverburn House	582.72	629
	Stuart House	1	3
	York Place	268.2	274
Elgin	Phoenix House	5	5
Falkirk	Grahame House	28.7	30
Galashiels	Government Buildings	22.36	26
Glasgow	2 Corkerhill Gardens	2.81	3
	Blythswood House	247.31	263
	Cotton House	389.8	408
	Glasgow Airport	8	8
	Plaza Tower	586.76	634
	Portcullis House	475.3	488
	Queensway House	1,421.12	1,559
	St Mungos Road	1,499.22	1,670
Glenrothes	Saltire House	145.14	155
Grangemouth	Custom House	35.5	36
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	41.46	45
	Custom House	62.8	68
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	42.82	47
Hawick	Crown Buildings	14.16	15
Home Address	Home Address	2	2
Inverness	Longman House	11	11
	River House	96.8	108
Irvine	Marress House	41.13	44
Lerwick	Charlotte House	3	3
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	32.49	35
Oban	Cameron House	2	2
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	201.8	204
	Gilmour House	33.95	37
Perth	1-3 Water Vennel	33.04	36
Peterhead	Keith House	23.5	26
Prestwick	Cargo House	6.5	7
Rothesay	9 King Street	10.04	11
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	48.51	54
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	1	1
Wick	Custom House	1	1
	Government Buildings	24.08	28

1 April 2006

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Aberdeen	Custom House	106	113
	Ruby House	162.26	178
Ayr	Russell House	78.55	87
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	700.8	742
Buckie	Moray House	15.28	17
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	27.88	29
Cumbernauld	St Mungos Road	1,652.89	1,960
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	22.46	24
	Government Buildings	2	2
Dumfries	161 Brooms Road	45.02	50
Dundee	Caledonian House	215.8	228
	Sidlaw House	656.69	70[illegible]
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	34.14	36
Dunoon	Auchencraig	11.54	12
East Kilbride	Plaza Tower	849.16	934
	Queensway House	1,473.21	1,644
Edinburgh	Argyle House	30.67	33
	Clarendon House	144.23	148
	Edinburgh Airport	6	6
	Elgin House	330.87	343
	Grayfield House	420.8	447
	Haymarket House	1.65	2
	Meldrum House	191.01	199
	Saughton House	368.77	383
	Stuart House	1	1
	York Place	248.1	256
Elgin	Phoenix House	5	5
Falkirk	Grahame House	20.2	24
Galashiels	Government Buildings	23.62	27
Glasgow	2 Corkerhill Gardens	2.81	3
	Blythswood House	221.46	238
	Cotton House	351.41	367
	Glasgow Airport	7	7
	Portcullis House	449.2	461
	Possilpark Ind Estate	1	1
Glenrothes	Saltire House	128.97	139
Grangemouth	Custom House	35.5	36
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	35.27	39
	Custom House	72.8	78
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	45.43	49
Hawick	Crown Buildings	10.36	11
Inverness	Longman House	11	11
	River House	93.2	105
Irvine	Marress House	34.9	37
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	7.35	8
Lerwick	Charlotte House	3	3
Livingston	Barbara Ritchie House	38.06	39
	Pentland House	256.92	279
	Silverburn House	432.59	464
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	30.27	33
Oban	Cameron House	2	2
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	193	195
	Gilmour House	25.73	29
Perth	1-3 Water Vennel	33.12	35
Peterhead	Keith House	20.2	23
Prestwick	Terminal Buildings	3.5	4
Rothesay	9 King Street	11.04	12
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	45.59	49
Ullapool	West Argyll Street	1	1
Wick	Government Buildings	21.7	26

1 April 2007

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Aberdeen	Custom House	94.73	100
	Ruby House	145.93	160
Ayr	Russell House	69.7	78
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	999.14	1,058
Buckie	Moray House	11.68	13
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	23.43	24
Cumbernauld	St Mungos Road	1,464.18	1,721
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	7.27	8
Dumfries	Government Buildings	40.72	44
Dundee	Caledonian House	194.43	204
	Sidlaw House	662.59	703
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	29.92	32
Dunoon	Auchencraig	13.77	16
East Kilbride	Plaza Tower	855.69	948
	Queensway House	1,514.33	1,719
Edinburgh	44 York Place	227.05	235
	Argyle House	31.21	33
	Clarendon House	138.41	142
	Elgin House	300.14	313
	Grayfield House	377.97	403
	Haymarket House	1.65	2
	Meldrum House	173.9	180
	Saughton House	355.6	372
	Spitfire House	6	6
Elgin	Phoenix House	5	5
Falkirk	Grahame House	14.68	16
Galashiels	Government Buildings	16.55	19
Glasgow	2 Corkerhill Gardens	1	1
	Blythswood House	171.1	186
	Cotton House	334.74	352
	Portcullis House	679.25	700
Glenrothes	Saltire House	128.28	139
Grangemouth	Custom House	29.54	30
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	32	34
	Custom House	70.64	77
Hamilton	1 Barrack Street	33.72	37
Hawick	Crown Building	10.79	12
Inverness	Longman House	11	11
	River House	91.01	104
Irvine	Marress House	31.19	33
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	6.35	7
Lerwick	Charlotte House	3	3
Livingston	Barbara Ritchie House	480.93	512
	Pentland House	261.02	283
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	27.32	29
Oban	Cameron House	2	2
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	190.43	193

1 April 2007

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
	Gilmour House	27.2	31
	Terminal Building	7	7
Perth	1 to 3 Water Vennel	25.3	27
Peterhead	Keith House	17.59	20
Prestwick	Terminal Building	3.49	4
Rothesay	9 King Street	6.62	7
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	40.67	45
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	1	1
Wick	Government Buildings and Custom House	20.08	23

1 April 2008

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Aberdeen	Custom House Aberdeen	83.54	88
	Ruby House	130.5	143
Ayr	Russell House	62.73	69
Bathgate	Pyramids Business Park	1,025.34	1,083
Buckie	Moray House	9.7	11
Coatbridge	2 Muiryhall Street	21.43	22
Cumbernauld	St Mungos Road	1,344.25	1,550
Dumbarton	15 Meadowbank Street	4.46	5
Dumfries	Government Buildings Dumfries	31.04	33
Dundee	Caledonian House Dundee	177.32	188
	Sidlaw House	712.88	756
Dunfermline	Merchiston House	29.84	31
Dunoon	Auchencraig	12.77	15
East Kilbride	Plaza Tower	839.49	919
	Queensway House	1,473.28	1,690
Edinburgh	44 York Place	211.56	220
	Argyle House	25.29	27
	Clarendon House Edinburgh	127.18	131
	Elgin House	269.91	280
	Grayfield House	394.53	427
	Haymarket House Edinburgh	1.65	2
	Meldrum House	168.32	175
	Saughton House	323.86	340
	Spitfire House	6	6
Elgin	Phoenix House	5	5
Falkirk	Grahame House	10	11
Galashiels	Government Buildings	13.06	15
Glasgow	2 Corkerhill Gardens	1	1
	Blythswood House	160.62	174
	Cotton House	328.02	346
	Portcullis House	664.83	690
	Princes Trust Anniesland College	1	1
Glenrothes Grangemouth	Saltire House	107.27	116
	Custom House	26.49	27
Greenock	99 Dalrymple Street	20.97	22
	Custom House	66.54	72
Hamilton Hawick	1 Barrack Street	33.32	36
	Crown Building	8.79	10
Inverness	Longman House	9.43	10
	River House	83.82	96
Irvine	Marress House	30.65	32

1 April 2008

Town/city	*Building*	*FTE*	*Headcount*
Kirkcaldy	26 Victoria Road	5.35	6
Lerwick	Charlotte House	3	3
Livingston	Barbara Ritchie House	480.89	509
	Pentland House	245.25	268
Motherwell	43 Civic Square	21.92	23
Oban	Cameron House	2	2
Paisley	Falcon Osprey and Vigilant House	192.14	195
	Gilmour House	27.91	31
	Terminal Building	7	7
Perth	1 to 3 Water Vennel	23.3	25
Peterhead	Keith House	15.4	18
Prestwick	Liberator House	3	3
Rothesay	9 King Street	6.62	7
Stirling	8 Spittal Street	19.67	22
Ullapool	24 West Argyll Street	1	1
Wick	Government Buildings and Custom House	19.51	23

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in direct and indirect taxes is *(a)* collected and *(b)* administered by each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland, in each of the last 12 months. [212920]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tobacco

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of cigarettes sold in the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [212805]

Angela Eagle: The total number of cigarettes released for consumption in the UK can be found in Table 2 of the HM Revenue and Customs 'Tobacco Bulletin', which is available from the HM Revenue and Customs website addresses at

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulltobacco.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect sales data.

Tobacco: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of cigarettes sold in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district in each of the last five years. [213360]

Angela Eagle: HMRC does not have geographic information on cigarette sales.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 19 of the 2008-11 Forward Plan of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), what information Ordnance Survey provided to the Valuation Office Agency to improve and align the VOA's database. [212728]

Jane Kennedy: The work between VOA and Ordnance Survey (OS) to improve and align respective databases is ongoing. The VOA will receive data from OS under this project later this year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned timetable is for the implementation of the community call to action procedures in the *(a)* Police and Justice Act 2006 and *(b)* Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [212741]

Mr. Dhanda: 'Strong and prosperous communities—the Local Government White Paper Implementation Plan: One Year On', published in November 2007, states that Councillor Call for Action for local government matters will be implemented during 2008.

The Home Office's Policing Green Paper will consult on a number of proposals for improving local accountability and decisions about how to implement the Police and Justice Act 2006 will need to be taken in light of the results of that consultation.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2773W, on community relations, what progress has been made on determining the process by which recommendation 25 of the report, 'Our Shared Future', on guidelines for local authorities on awarding public sector contracts to faith-based bodies, can be implemented. [212962]

Mr. Dhanda: Officials have begun discussion with other Government Departments and stakeholders to discuss the most appropriate way to take this forward. No decisions have yet been made.

Councillors: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish a response to the recommendations contained in the Councillors' Commission report, Representing the Future, published on 10 December 2007. [212933]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State announced on 15 May that the Government response to the Councillors Commission report would be published alongside the Community Empowerment White Paper, which will be published before the summer recess.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what offices her core Department has outside central London. [212784]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government occupies leased offices at Hempstead House, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and 2 Victoria Street, Glossop, Derbyshire. A third office at Garston, Hertfordshire is due to be vacated very shortly.

In offices managed by other Government Departments or agencies, CLG occupy space at Temple Quay House Bristol, Ashdown House Hastings, Office for National Statistics Titchfield Hampshire, and Fire Service College Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire.

Departmental Funiture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211772]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) does not collect data on expenditure on its office furniture.

All expenditure incurred by CLG in the purchase and procurement of services and items is made in accordance with the departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting. Where possible CLG purchase furniture through centrally negotiated contracts, always ensuring that the material used accord with the sustainable development in Government initiative.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212027]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to chapter 10 in the Communities and Local Government annual report 2008 which contains expenditure for the Department's public information campaigns in 2007-08. The report can be found in the Library of the House.

Information on marketing activities by our agencies can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of the property held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212880]

Mr. Dhanda: The value of the property held at 31 March 2007, the most recent date for which audited figures are available, was:

£33.3 millions in the Department; and

£1,061.4 million in associated public bodies. Within the total held by associated public bodies £978.9 millions is property held short-term to enable sustainable economic regeneration and development in the English regions.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's in-house staff magazine for the last 12 months. [212788]

Mr. Dhanda: Copies of the Department's staff magazine are placed in the Library on a regular basis. I can confirm that the most recent edition is now available.

Greenbelt: East of England

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 544W, on the green belt: East of England, how many hectares of green belt land, in gross terms, will be developed as a consequence of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy. [212721]

Mr. Dhanda: The East of England Plan requires the review of green belt boundaries at Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead, Harlow and Welwyn/Hatfield to help accommodate the housing requirements identified for this part of the region. The actual amount of green belt involved will depends on the outcome of these strategic reviews and the new boundaries will be established through the joint or co-ordinated local development frameworks developed by the local authorities involved.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 37-9WS, on home information packs, if she will place in the Library a copy of the initial assessment produced by the Deputy Chief Executive of the Land Registry. [212657]

Caroline Flint: A copy of the 'Local Property Searches and Leasehold Information' report by Ted Beardsall, the deputy chief executive of the Land Registry has been deposited in the House Library and is also available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/propertysearchesleasehold.

The working group on leasehold Information in HIPs has been established and is due to report in the autumn. Membership and terms of reference of the working group are available on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/homeinformation/whatis/workinggroup/.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions from a typical three bedroomed dwelling that is *(a)* electrically and *(b)* gas heated under level three standard of the Code for Sustainable Homes; [212368]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of average annual carbon dioxide emissions from a typical three bedroomed dwelling *(a)* built to current Part L building regulations and gas heated and *(b)* electrically heated to level three standard under the Code for Sustainable Homes. [212369]

Mr. Iain Wright: Energy performance standards within Code level 3 incorporate a 25 per cent. improvement in carbon dioxide emissions compared to a similarly heated home built to 2006 Part L building regulations.

An indicative average sized house used in the Department's modelling is a 100 m^2 semi-detached house and the results below are for standard occupancy and patterns of heating and hot water usage for average UK weather conditions. The model does not take into account the use of appliances such as brown and white goods.

Kg/year

Heating type and standard achieved	*Average carbon dioxide emissions*
Gas boiler, compliant with Part L 2006 building regulations	2,203
Gas boiler, achieving Code Level 3	1,640
Electrically heated home, compliant with Part L 2006 building regulations	3,118
Electrically heated home, achieving Code level 3	2,324

These figures are target emission rates. Developers will use a variety of different solutions to achieve compliance with them and occupiers will consume more or less than this dependent on their real life behaviour. The target emission rates in Part L of the building regulations are different for gas heated and electrically heated homes due to the use of a 'fuel factor'.

This factor recognises the higher carbon burden of grid electricity in comparison with gas and therefore the compliance difficulties which would be faced by homes which could not be built to use gas heating, for example homes that are not on the gas grid.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to increase house-building activity within the construction sector. [211639]

Caroline Flint: In order to encourage home building within the construction sector, Communities and Local Government is continuing to engage with the construction industry and mortgage lenders seeking to stimulate building of the good quality and affordable homes that people need. This is supported by other actions being taken through our delivery bodies.

As we announced on the 14 May, we will be helping developers at a challenging time in the new build market by giving the Housing Corporation flexibility to fund its investment partners to buy unsold stock from developers at competitive rates with a view to provision of either social rent or low cost home ownership. We expect the Housing Corporation to spend £200 million in 2008-09.

Through an expansion of the Government's HomeBuy programme, all first time buyers with a household income of £60,000 a year or less will have the option to apply to buy a share, from 25 per cent. of a home or to boost their purchasing power by up to 50 per cent. with a shared equity mortgage.

English Partnerships are seeking to help developers to acquire land needed to maintain supply of housing through improvements to their processes for selling sites.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much affordable housing was built in England in each quarter since 2006; and what her projections are for the amount to be built in the remainder of 2008. [211507]

Caroline Flint: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in England in 2005-06 and 2006-07—these figures are not available quarterly. The figures include new build Social rent and intermediate affordable housing; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

New build affordable homes in England

	Number
2005-06	33,010
2006-07	35,950

Source:

Registered social landlord new build figures from the Housing Corporation, local authority new build completions from P2 returns, Section 106 new build figures from HSSA returns.

The Department does not produce forecasts of new build affordable housing delivery.

The total new build plus acquisitions figures for England are shown in the affordable housing live tables and statistics release, which were released on the Department's website on 12 June 2008—the links are as follows:

Link to Affordable Housing Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Link to Affordable Housing Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/838468.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing are available to residents in Chorley for *(a)* rental, *(b)* shared ownership and *(c)* purchase. [212303]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table summarises the breakdown of social housing within Chorley, according to the most recent Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) dated 31 March 2007. The 2008 RSR is currently being collated.

Description	*Number of units*
Social rented	
General needs	4,833
Supported housing	170
Housing for older people	793
Total	5,796
Shared ownership	
Total	228
Purchase	
Low cost home ownership sales	16
RTB/RTA/PRTB	2
Total	18

Notes:

RTA—Right to acquire

RTB—Right to buy

PRTB—Preserved right to buy

Housing: Repossession Orders

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking with financial institutions and the Local Government Association to reduce the number of housing repossessions; and if she will make a statement. [212337]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister for Housing and Planning hosted meetings with the mortgage and lending industry on 22 April and 10 June to discuss what the industry can do to support borrowers in difficulty during the current period of turbulence in global financial markets.

Further meetings are planned to continue the exchange of information and agree actions.

In monitoring implementation of homelessness prevention strategies, Communities and Local Government has regular contact with all English local authorities including assessment of the effectiveness of measures to minimise homelessness.

Although we appreciate that repossessions have risen slightly in recent months, the rate is around a third of that in 1991, when they reached 75,500—even with two million more homeowners today.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes since 1 May 2008; and how many of these homes meet Level *(a)* 3, *(b)* 4 and *(c)* 6 of the code, broken down by type of landlord. [211015]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the code was launched in April 2007, 25 homes in four developments have reached code level 3 at design stage, with three dwellings in two developments reaching code level 4. Of these assessments, one design stage certificate for a code level 3 home has been issued and two post-construction certificates for homes which reached code level 4 have been issued since 1 May 2008.

It was always anticipated that there would be a time lag from the code's inception to the completion of substantial numbers of new code homes. This is because of the time it takes to incorporate the code standards within the land acquisition and design process. Larger developments will inevitably take longer to reach a construction stage due to the statutory consultation process and negotiations involved.

Overall since 1 May 2008, 188 developments incorporating approximately 1,050 homes have been registered against the code. Since the code was launched 1,269 developments representing over 45,000 homes have been registered.

The register of code certificates and the data underpinning it is administered by the BRE on behalf of the Government. Reports on the number of assessments and the code level achieved are provided on a monthly basis. Reports on breaking these figures down by local authority area, Government Office region and landlord type is provided on a quarterly basis. We are due to receive the first quarterly report in July 2008.

Leisure: Private Sector

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the role played by commercial leisure groups towards enhancing facilities available to local communities; and how her Department liaises with *(a)* commercial leisure organisations, *(b)* licensed bingo clubs and *(c)* dance schools on such matters. [212089]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has made no such assessment. Policy responsibility for enhancing the local leisure facilities lies with DCMS.

Licensing Laws

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals the Planning Inspectorate has considered in relation to premises selling alcohol in the last 12 months. [213537]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate are able to identify appeals that relate to public houses and wine bars, but this may not identify all appeals relating to premises selling alcohol. During the 12 month period 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008, the Inspectorate considered 182 planning appeals in respect of public houses and wine bars.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have received Reward Grant funding from her Department for meeting targets in their *(a)* local public service agreement and *(b)* local area agreement to date; what the value was of each payment; and on what date each payment was made. [212734]

John Healey: The following tables set out payments of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) made to local authorities in respect of performance on targets in local public service agreements. PRG is claimed by local authorities and payable in two instalments; the first in the financial year after the end of the three year agreement, the second in the following year. For the vast majority of authorities payments are made between January and March of the relevant year. The agreements themselves are in the public domain and these explain the amount of reward payable and the basis upon which the reward grant is to be paid.

The first local area agreements incorporating a 'reward element' started in April 2005 and will run for three years. The first instalment of PRG in relation to these agreements will not therefore be payable until later in the current financial year.

Local government public service agreements—starting 2001, 2002 and 2003

£

Local authority	*1st Instalment*	*2nd Instalment*
Pilot		
Birmingham	7,749,255.00	7,749,255.50
Blackburn with Darwen	1,371,623.00	1,371,623.00
Cambridgeshire	1,570,940.00	1,570,940.00
Camden	1,488,487.00	1,488,487.00
Coventry	2,837,123.00	—
Derbyshire	3,860,446.00	3,860,446.50
Kent	9,704,622.50	9,704,622.00
Lewisham	2,675,090.50	2,675,090.00
Middlesbrough	964,800.00	964,800.00
Milton Keynes	624,552.50	624,552.50
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2,104,138.00	2,104,138.00
Newham	3,142,745.62	3,142,745.62
Norfolk	2,570,642.50	2,570,642.50
Richmond-upon-Thames	864,241.50	864,241.50
Sheffield	4,271,858.00	4,271,858.00
Stockton-on-Tees	1,347,106.00	1,347,106.50
Sunderland	2,118,253.00	2,001,970.00
Surrey	3,174,233.00	3,174,233.00
Tameside	1,889,347.50	1,889,347.00
Warwickshire	2,689,631.50	2,689,631.00
Total	57,019,137.62	54,065,728.12
Batch 1		
Buckinghamshire	2,795,316.50	2,795,316.50
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,313,259.50	2,752,209.50
Leeds	2,201,139.00	[1]—
Peterborough	939,356.00	939,356.00
Total	8,249,071.00	6,486,882.00
Batch 2		
Bromley	2,711,210.00	3,019,365.00
Durham	4,765,154.00	4,765,154.00
Essex	8,727,211.00	8,727,211.00
Hammersmith and Fulham	942,905.50	942,905.50
Hampshire	4,991,949.00	4,991,949.00
Herefordshire	860,086.00	[1]—
Liverpool	1,762,015.00	3,251,038.00
Manchester	3,289,489.00	4,274,367.00
Southwark	2,792,583.75	2,895,170.75
Wigan	2,026,043.00	2,026,043.00
Wiltshire	2,283,635.50	2,283,635.50
Worcestershire	4,186,145.00	4,186,145.00
Total		41,362,983.75
Batch 3		
Barnsley	1,022,844.00	[1]—
Cheshire	4,357,053.00	4,927,998.00
Derby City	2,042,136.50	2,042,136.50
Devon	4,085,549.50	4,085,549.50
Doncaster	2,175,257.00	2,175,257.00
Halton	910,520.00	1,038,520.00
Kirklees	3,239,567.00	3,239,567.00
Medway	2,380,561.50	2,380,561.50

Local government public service agreements—starting 2001, 2002 and 2003

£

Local authority *Pilot*	*1st Instalment*	*2nd Instalment*
Stoke	1,267,039.50	1,267,039.50
Suffolk	3,015,811.50	1,507,905.75
Sutton	915,746.50	915,746.50
Tower Hamlets	3,499,138.50	3,499,138.50
Warrington	1,725,296.00	1,725,296.00
Total		28,804,715.75
Batch 4		
Bolton	1,864,337.00	1,864,337.00
Croydon	1,726,081.00	1,726,081.00
Greenwich	1,949,880.50	1,949,880.50
Leicester City	2,315,053.50	2,391,910.50
Portsmouth	868,900.00	868,900.00
Rochdale	1,701,335.00	3,402,729.00
Salford	1,692,322.00	1,692,322.00
Slough	603,899.00	[1]—
Staffordshire	2,818,101.50	5,276,710.50
Swindon	618,546.50	618,546.50
Telford and Wrekin	1,232,599.00	1,365,137.00
York	755,092.00	1,122,740.00
Total	18,146,147.00	22,279,294.00
Batch 5'		
Bracknell Forest	357,318.00	357,318.00
Brighton and Hove	728,354.50	728,354.50
Baling	1,687,540.50	1,687,540.50
Hartlepool	916,923.50	916,923.50
Knowsley	1,123,834.50	
Lincolnshire	1,947,371.75	3,019,754.00
North Lincolnshire	895,930.50	895,930.50
Redbridge	1,461,674.50	[1]—
St. Helens	1,045,434.50	1,425,839.50
Waltham Forest	1,492,593.00	1,492,593.00
Total	11,656,975.25	10,524,253.50
Batch 6		
Blackpool	1,542,190.50	1,542,190.50
Bristol city council	1,067,946.50	1,067,946.50
Gloucestershire	3,555,572.50	4,575,920.50
Harrow	1,391,231.50	1,518,210.50
Hertfordshire	4,839,475.50	4,839,475.00
Isle of Wight	886,620.50	886,620.50
Islington	2,483,647.00	[1]—
Luton	1,410,195.50	1,410,195.50
Oxfordshire	3,622,886.00	3,622,886.00
Total	20,799,765.50	19,463,445.00
Batch 7		
Bedfordshire	1,231,384.50	1,892,666.50
Bury	1,322,139.00	1,322,139.00
Havering	1,590,024.50	1,590,024.50
Hounslow	2,413,407.50	2,413,407.50
Kensington and Chelsea	1,600,632.00	1,600,632.00
Nottinghamshire	6,019,297.00	6,019,297.00
Rotherham	1,870,199.50	1,870,199.50
Shropshire	2,085,738.00	2,540,605.00
Somerset	1,126,639.50	1,126,639.50
Stockport	1,679,413.50	1,679,413.50
West Sussex	4,182,082.50	7,366,071.50
Wokingham	752,858.00	752,858.00
Wolverhampton	2,511,671.50	2,511,671.50
Total	28,385,487.00	32,685,625.00
Batch 8		
Barking and Dagenham	1,671,215.50	1,671,215.50
Barnet	1,538,463.00	1,538,463.00
Bath and NE Somerset	964,110.50	964,110.50
Dorset	1,950,304.50	1,950,304.50
East Sussex	3,527,268.50	3,527,268.50
Lancashire	6,048,044.00	6,818,988.00
Leicestershire	4,500,960.50	4,500,960.50
Northamptonshire	2,814,136.50	4,583,893.50
NE Lincolnshire	1,257,275.00	1,257,275.00
Northumberland	2,782,102.50	2,782,102.50
Total	27,053,880.50	29,594,581.50
Batch 9		
Bexley	1,874,037.00	—
Bradford	2,512,549.50	2,512,549.50
Cornwall	4,265,936.00	4,265,936.00
Cumbria	2,845,478.00	2,845,478.00
Kingston Upon Thames	744,893.50	1,101,211.50
Merton	1,811,475.00	1,811,475.00
North Yorkshire	3,724,168.50	3,724,168.50
Reading	760,475.50	760,475.50
Sandwell	2,630,700.00	2,630,700.00
Southampton	890,080.50	890,080.50
Thurrock	1,038,354.00	[1]—
West Berkshire	1,070,612.00	1,070,612.00
Westminster	1,635,083.50	2,126,617.50
Total	25,803,843.00	23,739,304.00
Batch 10		
Brent	2,567,234.00	2,567,234.00
Calderdale	1,329,359.00	1,329,359.00
Dudley	2,560,372.00	2,560,372.00
Enfield	2,306,926.50	2,558,168.50
Hillingdon	2,144,889.50	2,144,889.50
Lambeth	2,291,972.50	3,084,190.50
North Somerset	1,225,702.50	1,279,930.50
Nottingham	1,505,156.50	1,547,150.50
Oldham	1,615,762.00	2,114,762.00
Redcar and Cleveland	1,183,093.00	1,563,968.00
Sefton	1,943,432.00	1,943,432.00
South Tyneside	1,531,267.00	1,531,267.00
Southend-on-Sea	899,881.00	1,070,766.00
RB Windsor and Maidenhead	528,663.00	528,663.00
Total	23,633,710.50	25,824,152.50
Batch 11		
Bournemouth	1,252,663.50	—
Darlington	776,629.50	776,629.50
Gateshead	2,477,958.50	2,477,958.50
Haringey	2,238,634.00	—
North Tyneside	1,628,087.50	—
Poole	1,087,783.00	—
Rutland	136,200.50	—
Sclihull	2,003,388.00	2,003,388.00
South Gloucestershire	2,146,323.50	—

Local government public service agreements—starting 2001, 2002 and 2003

£

Local authority *Pilot*	*1st Instalment*	*2nd Instalment*
Trafford	1,119,273.00	1,119,273.00
Wandsworth	1,819,421.50	1,819,421.50
Wirral	1,716,417.00	3,192,467.00
Total	18,402,779.50	11,389,137.50
Batch 12		
Kingston-Upon Hull		—
Plymouth	2,489,343.00	—
Torbay	1,006,312.50	—
Wakefield		—
Walsall		—
Total	3,495,655.50	—

[1] One instalment
[2] One target still to claim

Local government public service agreements—2nd Geheration starting in 2004

Local authority *Pilot 1*	*1st Instalment*
Blackburn with Darwen	1,263,391.00
Newham	942,173.00
Norfolk	5,467,369.50
Sheffield	2,523,575.00
Stockton	1,885,551.50
Tameside	2,285,483.50
Total	14,367,543.50
Derbyshire	310,125.00
Wigan	1,204,432.00
Luton	2,533,490.00

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the 18/84 planning procedure since 1997. [212732]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1997 the procedures for development by the Crown set out in Part IV of DOE Circular 18/84 have been revoked, following the implementation of part 7 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in June 2006, which ended the Crown's immunity from the planning system. Crown bodies now have to apply for planning permission like any other developer subject to special arrangements for urgent development. Guidance on development by Crown bodies is given in DCLG Circular 02/2006 'Crown Application of the Planning Acts'.

Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report produced by GfK NOP Ltd. for her Department on the feasibility of undertaking a national survey of attitudes. [212629]

Mr. Dhanda: The feasibility study carried out by GfK Nop Ltd., on undertaking a national survey of attitudes, produced a technical report to inform methodological development. As such, it was not designed to collect responses for data analysis. A summary of the feasibility study report findings is shown as follows. I will not be placing a copy of the full report in the Library at present, as this could jeopardise ongoing policy development, but I will review this position in due course once current policy formulation in this area has reached a conclusion.

Summary of the feasibility study report for a communities attitudes survey

This paper summarises the key points from the Feasibility Study and its recommendations.

Key findings

There was a good response from respondents. Once eligibility was established, respondents were keen to take part and the number of refusals to participate was generally very low.

Male face-to-face interviewers reported difficulties obtaining interviews with some female respondents; they were not unwilling to participate but sought the consent and/or presence of male relatives.

Interviewers felt that respondents were concerned about confidentiality and anonymity, despite the reassurances given throughout the interview. This was felt by interviewers to affect the truthfulness of answers to some questions.

The presence of other people during the interview, which was common in face-to-face interviews, was also felt to present risks to validity.

It appeared to be harder for telephone interviewers to authenticate the legitimacy of the research and gain respondents' trust.

Respondents expressed concern about the questions which asked for demographic information about other members in the household.

The average interview lengths of the face-to-face and telephone interviews were 43 minutes and 35 minutes respectively.

There was a relatively high number of incompleted telephone interviews; questionnaire length was one factor thought to contribute to this. This was not a problem with face-to-face interviews.

There were problems with some questions on sensitive issues, including a relatively high number of 'don't knows' to some.

In the face-to-face interviews, audio-CASI (audio-recorded questions which the respondent completes themselves and nobody else hears the responses) was used for some questions. This method, which is used in surveys to ask about sensitive topics, was generally successful although there were some issues with the foreign language versions of the questions.

The language and concepts in the questionnaire more generally was thought to be over-complex in places.

Key recommendations

The study demonstrated that a large-scale nationally representative survey of community attitudes is feasible, provided that certain measures are taken into consideration.

A face-to-face methodology is recommended because of:

Length of interview;

Greater ability to reassure respondents about confidentiality;

Lower incidences of terminated interviews; and

Ability to use Audio-CASI for sensitive questions.

The length of the interview (for face-to-face) should be no longer than 35 minutes.

Extensive development is required on questions on sensitive issues.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation process was used by the Government Office for the East of England to consult residents of *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex on the Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England. [213009]

Mr. Dhanda: There were three stages of public consultation leading to the development of the East of England Plan, the Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England. A 14-week consultation on the Draft Plan was held from 8 December 2004 until 16 March 2005. A 12-week consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan took place from 19 December 2006 until 9 March 2007. Finally, there was an eight-week consultation on the Secretary of State's Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan that took place from 23 October 2007 until 18 December 2007. All of these consultations were open to all members of the public, including residents of Castle Point and Essex.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213555]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not commissioned or funded television programmes in the period specified.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

After School Clubs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on after-school clubs in Chorley constituency in each year since 1997. [213639]

Beverley Hughes: Information of this kind is not collected centrally. It is for local authorities, working with schools and children service partners, to develop strategies for how funding for extended activities in schools is allocated, depending on local need. The Department made a total of £840 million available to local authorities and schools between 2003 and 2008 to support start-up of extended services in schools. A further £1.3 billion will be made available over the next three years to support start-up and sustainability of services. Individual local authority allocations are available online at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk.

Other funding is also available to support extended schools, including money available to support personalised learning during and beyond the school day, and money available to support neighbourhood renewal.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2027-8W, on children in care: missing persons, how many of the 3,520 children who went missing from local authority care in the last five years have never been traced. [211161]

Kevin Brennan: My answer of 22 April 2008 provided figures on the number of children who went missing from their agreed placement for 24 hours or more during each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007. Those are reproduced in table 1. These figures cannot be aggregated to give the number of children who had gone missing at least once over the five year period. This is because the same child may have gone missing from their agreed placement in more than one year and will be counted in each of those years. Aggregating the data would therefore lead to double counting.

Table 1

	Number
2003	990
2004	730
2005	860
2006	890
2007	950

Source:
SSDA 903 return on children looked after.

Although it is not possible to derive from this data the number of children who have never been traced, we do collect information on the number of children who were still missing from their agreed placement at the 31 March each year. These are shown in table 2. The figures for a particular year will, however, include children who went missing in that year and a number of children who first went missing in a previous year. So, again it is not possible to aggregate these figures over any particular time period without double counting.

Table 2

	Number
2003	120
2004	120
2005	140
2006	140
2007	160

Source:
SSDA 903 return on children looked after.

When a child is reported as "missing" from care; it is essential that the authority works with the police and provides all necessary information so that the child can be located. One of the requirements set out in statutory guidance 'Children Missing from Home and Care—a Guide to Good Practise', issued in 2002, is that each local authority must designate a senior manager to be responsible for monitoring incidents of children missing from care to identify any trends and to investigate any further action necessary to respond to children's needs ensuring that they are properly safeguarded.

On 26 March we published 'Care Matters: Time to Deliver for Children in Care' which sets out our intention to update and reissue guidance to the Children Act 1989 and subsequent legislation. As part of this we shall be emphasising the responsibilities of local authorities to respond consistently and effectively whenever a child is missing from care.

Children: Day Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered child care places there were in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district in each year since 1997. [213350]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

The information available relates to the number of registered childcare places in Leeds local authority area and is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Leeds local authority area—position at 31 March each year 2003-08

Type of care	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Full day care	5,700	6,600	7,200	8,300	8,600	8,500
Sessional day care	2,500	2,300	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,800
Childminders	5,000	5,100	5,100	5,300	5,100	4,900
Out of school day care	5,000	4,500	4,700	5,300	5,900	5,300
Crèche day care	700	700	600	600	600	600

[1] Figures ham been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

Source:

Ofsted

Table 2: Number[1] of day care places for children under eight years of age by Leeds local authority area—Position at 31 March each year 1997 to 2002

Type of provider	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Day nurseries	3,400	3,500	3,900	5,100	4,400	n/a
Playgroups and pre-schools	5,000	4,900	4,200	3,200	3,000	n/a
Childminders	5,500	5,400	4,700	5,300	4,700	n/a
Out of school clubs	1,700	2,800	2,300	2,700	2,600	n/a
Holiday schemes[2]	7,900	3,800	12,400	5,500	8,400	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.

Source:

Children's Day Care Facilities Survey

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report 'Registered Childcare Providers and Places, March 2008', which is available on their website

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of those who have received money from the *(a)* Transformation Fund, (b) Graduate Leader Fund and *(c)* Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion strand of the (i) Sure Start, (ii) early years and (iii) Childcare grants in each of the last three years are registered childminders. [213505]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect the data requested. Funding for childminders is allocated to local authorities through the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant. Local authorities determine how these resources are used at local level.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of local authorities provide funding for childminding networks. [213506]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not held centrally.

We encourage the establishment of childminding networks but it is for local authorities to decide whether or not to fund them, according to their priorities for securing sufficient child care based on their child care sufficiency assessments. In addition, Sure Start Children's Centres in every local authority are encouraged to support childminders, including through childminding networks.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of local authorities have undertaken full sufficiency assessments of local child care provision under the Childcare Act 2006. [213508]

Beverley Hughes: All local authorities have completed and published child care sufficiency assessments, as required by section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 948-50W, how many and what proportion of daycare settings in the *(a)* 15 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* 15 per cent. least deprived local authorities are Sure Start centres; and how many and what proportion of the 8.4 per cent. of day care providers deemed inadequate in the 15 per cent. least deprived areas between 2007 and 2008 are Sure Start centres. [213510]

Beverley Hughes: The DCSF does not hold this information. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 948-50W, how many and what proportion of daycare settings in the *(a)* 15 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* 15 per cent. least deprived local authorities are Sure Start centres; and how many and what proportion of the 8.4 per cent. of day care providers deemed inadequate in the 15 per cent. least deprived areas between 2007 and 2008 are Sure Start centres. [213510]

Beverley Hughes: The DCSF does not hold this information. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 15 September:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The first part of your question refers to the number and proportion of day care settings in the relevant authorities that are Sure Start centres. There are 6,913 settings in the 15% least deprived authorities, of which 481 (7.0%) are Sure Start centres. There are 3,420 settings in the 15% most deprived authorities, of which 503 (14.7%) are Sure Start centres. These data are also presented in Table A below.

These figures should be treated with care. The total figures for day care settings are from Ofsted's childcare database. However, we do not identify whether childcare providers are Sure Start centres on our database. The total numbers of Sure Start centres in each local authority are taken from the Sure Start database, which is maintained by each local authority and as such the quality of the data is variable. Therefore, inaccuracies may occur from a direct comparison between our register and the database (for instance, a provider on our register that has not yet been added to the Sure Start database by the local authority).

The second part of your question refers to the 8.4%, or 102, of day care providers deemed inadequate in the 15% most deprived local authorities. 11 of these settings (10.8% of 102) are Sure Start centres. These data are also presented in Table A below.

Again, I am afraid that these data come with some caveats. To produce the figures we have cross-referenced the postcodes of Sure Start centres as recorded by local matching, however, is unlikely to be fully accurate for a number of reasons:

postcodes are not unique to a single setting but cover a small area, so a Sure Start centre may have the same post code as another childcare setting which is not a Sure Start centre;

linked sites that do not operate in the post coded area of the children's centre have not been identified; and

as above, the Sure Start database is maintained by each local authority and as such the quality of the data is variable.

Please also note that, as requested, we are providing figures relating to the quality of day care providers inspected during 2007-08. These figures cannot be used to represent the total number of inadequate Sure Start centres as they do not include those inspected in previous years.

Table A: Sure Start centres inspected between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008

	Total Day Care Providers at 01/04/08	*Sure Start Children's Centres Designated and Meeting Full Core Offer*	*Total Day Care providers Inspected 07/08*	*Those childcare settings inspected which are Sure Start centres**	*Number of day care providers inspected and found inadequate in 07-08*	*Number of those inspected and judged inadequate which are possibly Sure Start centres*[1]
15% least deprived local authorities	6913	481 (7% of total day care providers	2549	143 (5.6% of the total number inspected)	143 (5.6% of the total number inspected)	13 (9.1% of the providers found inadequate
15% most deprived local authorities	3420	503 (14.7% of total day care providers)	1219	140 (11.5% of the total number inspected	102 (8.4% of the total number inspected)	11 (10.8% of the providers found inadequate)

[1] Sure Start centres include both main sites and satellite units with a postcode within the least and most deprived areas.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Right Hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's Commissioner for England: Costs

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England cost in each year since its inception; [213021]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance of the Children's Commissioner for England in the last three years. [213022]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The Children's Commissioner for England publishes his annual report and accounts, copies of which are laid before Parliament and available in the House Library.

The Children's Commissioner is independent of Government. The Government values the role the Commissioner plays in bringing the views and interests of children to the forefront and values his independence as this enables him to fulfil his functions appropriately. The Children's Commissioner for England regularly meets with Ministers across Whitehall to bring his work to their attention and discuss his findings. No formal assessment is made of the Commissioner's achievements by Ministers as this would be improper considering the Commissioner's independence.

Connexions Service: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Connexions service has received from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other sources in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [213369]

Beverley Hughes: The amount of resources we are putting into Connexions and other services for children and young people is substantial. The funding that the Connexions service has received from the Department in each year since 2005 is shown in the following table. Although we know that Connexions Partnerships have also received resources from other sources we do not hold information on the amounts involved.

Connexions Service DCSF/DfES funding

	£ million
2005-06	464
2006-07	466
2007-08	467
2008-09	469

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210984]

Kevin Brennan: A copy of the DCSF chart of accounts has been placed in the Library. The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The Department does not use resource account codes. Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [210880]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

(a) None.

(b) None.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department's green transport plan was introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of this plan. [209243]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's sustainable development action plan, 'Brighter Futures—Greener Lives' was published on 1 May and is underpinned by delivery plans committing us to make progress on a series of sustainable development goals. We do have a commitment to encourage staff to travel to work in the most carbon efficient manner which we will develop into a green transport plan.

Education Leeds: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has given to Education Leeds in each year since 2001. [213368]

Jim Knight: Details of the total payments issued to Education Leeds by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills in each year from 2001 to 2008 are set out as follows:

	£
2001/02	55,728
2002/03	561,706
2003/04	1,557
2004/05	17,927
2005/06	9,158
2006/07	12,897
2007/08	0
2008/09 (to 19 June 2008)	2,000

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's Integrated Financial Information System and credited against Education Leeds.

The expenditure recorded covers the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department of Education and Skills (DFES). The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established under machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007.

Education: Assessments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps are being taken to resolve systemic problems encountered by schools attempting to register Key Stage 2 SAT pupils online; [213108]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure helplines are accessible to schools and teaching staff during the period of Key Stage 2 SATs; [213109]

(3) what steps are being taken to ensure the system for administering Key Stage 2 SATs is fit for purpose for teaching staff and pupils. [213110]

Jim Knight: The National Curriculum tests for key stage 2 took place on 12-16 May. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers those tests on behalf of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Delivery of the national curriculum tests is always challenging in view of the scale and timing of the task and it is unfortunate that this year's exercise has encountered difficulties. As usual during the test delivery period, we are in regular contact with the NAA and I take a close interest in the progress of test delivery. I have asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to my hon. Friend. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 20 June 2008:

The National Assessment Agency is responsible for overseeing the safe delivery of the National Curriculum Tests. The tests at KS2 and KS3 are sat by over 1.1 million pupils.

To remove the risk of error in the marking of pupils work it is important that an accurate record of pupil attendance for each test is recorded. For many years this has been a paper process which given the scale of the tests brings with it inevitable errors that require correcting. For the 2008 test cycle a new contractor ETS was appointed and one of the many improvements they offered was to move the recording of pupil attendance online.

Schools were provided with a copy of the most recent pupil records as collected from school census data and were required to annotate against each pupil which tests were actually sat. Some pupils move schools during the year and so there was the additional facility to edit the records.

A new website provided by ETS delivered this service On the first day of the KS2 test week the website unfortunately suffered technological problems for three hours. While key stage 2 schools had a period of 10 days to submit their entries an estimated 745 schools out of approximately 16,000 were impacted by the website being not available during this time.

Help line service for schools is provided by ETS throughout the test period. During the time of system outage the ETS helpline did experience a high number of calls as schools reported this issue. The volume of calls caused callers to be held in a queue and ETS have acknowledged and apologised for this frustration. Staffing of the helpline has been increased in response to this issue to give greater capacity.

As in previous years the NAA will be conducting a review in to the delivery performance of the tests including consulting with schools, markers and other stakeholders to ensure good practice and necessary improvements are captured and acted upon

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received on ETS's performance in marking SATs papers in the academic year 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [213182]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of ETS's online system for marking SATs papers and recording results. [213183]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 June, 2008]*: As in previous years, the Department has received representations about aspects of the national curriculum tests, including marking. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests and the National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests and manages the delivery contract with ETS Europe on the QCA's behalf. This function is performed independently of the Government. On completion of the test cycle, the NAA will fully evaluate the effectiveness of the test delivery systems, taking account of feedback from stakeholders, to ensure that any necessary improvements are made.

Responsibility for regulating the development and delivery of national curriculum tests lies with the independent interim regulator, the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). In fulfilling its regulatory function, Ofqual is monitoring the delivery of the 2008 tests.

Financial Services: Education

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to schools on education in personal financial management; and if he will make a statement. [212760]

Jim Knight: We issued separate guidance to primary schools and secondary schools on the teaching of personal finance education in 2000. ("Financial Capability through Personal Finance Education: Guidance for Schools at Key Stages 1 and 2").

We have asked the Personal Finance Education Group to update the guidance for secondary schools in light of the introduction of a new programme of study for economic well-being and financial capability within the revised secondary curriculum. The new guidance will be available to schools this summer.

The guidance for primary schools is expected to be updated once Sir Jim Rose has completed his review of the primary curriculum in March 2009.

As part of the £11.5 million investment to support good financial education in schools announced in September 2007, the Department will also be producing a range of curriculum resources. These will be available from summer 2009.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils of *(a)* state schools and *(b)* private schools in (i) Leeds Metropolitan District and (ii) Leeds West constituency achieved (A) five grades A* to C at GCSE and (B) three A to C grades at A Level in each year since 1997. [213351]

Jim Knight: The information requested in (B) requires significant data development and recalculations, which can be done only at disproportionate cost. However, figures showing the percentage of 15-year-olds achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE are shown in the following table:

Proportion of 15-year-olds[1] achieving 5 or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent[2]*

	Parliamentary Constituency of Leeds West[3]		*Leeds Metropolitan District[4]*	
	State schools[5]	*Independent schools[6]*	*State schools[5]*	*Independent schools[6]*
1997	24.2	n/a	37.4	88.3
1998	20.3	n/a	37.9	87.1
1999	22.5	n/a	39.4	89.1
2000	25.2	n/a	40.4	87.1
2001	20.9	n/a	39.6	84.3
2002	22.7	n/a	42.4	86.4
2003	25.7	n/a	44.4	82.5
2004	26.1	n/a	45.3	85.6
2005	32.4	n/a	49.3	84.2
2006	38.2	n/a	52.0	88.8
2007	40.4	n/a	55.7	93.1

n/a= not applicable

[1] Age at the start of the academic year (i.e. 31 August).

[2] From 1997 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2004 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[3] Pupils attending schools located in Leeds West constituency.

[4] Pupils attending schools located in Leeds Metropolitan District

[5] All maintained schools including maintained special schools

[6] All independent schools and non-maintained special schools

Infant Foods: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of local authorities fund the provision of baby formula milk. [213507]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not collect information on the extent to which local authorities fund the provision of infant formula. Through the Nursery Milk scheme, the Great Britain Health Departments reimburse providers of early years education and daycare for 1/3 pint milk given daily to children under five attending for two hours or more. This may be given as infant formula for babies under one. We do not monitor the proportion of claims relating to infant formula, but estimate that they represent a small proportion of all claims.

Languages: Curriculum

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which languages have been added to the national curriculum in the last 10 years; and what criteria are applied to assess the eligibility of modern foreign languages for inclusion in the syllabus. [212979]

Jim Knight: In 1998, schools were teaching the 1995 version of the national curriculum which did not specify which languages schools should teach.

Since 2000 the requirement on schools at Key Stage 3 has been to first teach a working language of the European Union. The new Key Stage 3 curriculum, which will be taught in schools from September 2008, broadens this requirement to allow schools to teach any major European or world language they choose, which may include Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. This change was made to allow schools more freedom to offer world languages, in response to the increasing global economy.

Sir Jim Rose is conducting a review of the primary curriculum, one of the aims of which is to introduce languages as a compulsory subject at Key Stage 2. He will be considering which languages primary schools should teach as part of this review.

Nurseries

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* private and voluntary independent and *(b)* maintained day nurseries there were in London in each year since 1997. [212717]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ownership of child care provision; the estimated number and proportion of full day care providers by type of ownership in London in 2006 is shown in table 1 as follows. Data for previous years are not available in the format requested.

Table 1. Ownership of full day care provision in London, 2006

	Number	*Percentage*
Private	1,270	67
Voluntary sector	360	19
Local Authority	130	7
School/college	100	5
Other	60	3

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of parents taking up the free early years entitlement who are using part or all of the entitlement on childminders; [213467]

(2) how many and what proportion of the settings delivering the free early years entitlement are childminders; [213468]

(3) how many and what proportion of childminders are delivering the free early years entitlement. [213481]

Beverley Hughes: Childminders delivering free early learning places for three and four-year-olds must be registered with Ofsted and be accredited as part of a childminder network that meets the requirements of a suitably rigorous quality assurance scheme. The Early Years census, therefore, collects information for childminding networks rather than individual childminders. 126 childminding networks have members delivering the free entitlement.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the early years entitlement in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [211492]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: Payment for the free early education entitlement is made as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant which provides funding for pupils between the ages of three to 16. We do not separately identify the amount of funding made available for early years. Local authorities are best placed to determine the most effective use of resources at local level and have discretion over the rate at which they fund settings for delivery of early years provision.

From September 2010 the free entitlement for three and four year olds will be extended from 12½ to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year, and access will be more flexible. A longer and more flexible offer will give parents greater choice in balancing work and family life. This large injection of additional funding emphasises the Government's commitment to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life. We will invest £80 million in this year, £170 million in 2009-10 and £340 million in 2010-11 to extend the entitlement. Funding levels for the next CSR period (2011-14) are yet to be decided.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213499]

Jim Knight: Teachers' TV was launched in February 2005 and aims to help raise standards in classrooms by sharing good practice, supporting continuing professional development, offering classroom resources, and providing education news and information. Teachers TV commission all programmes directly with third party suppliers.

In the channel's first operating year the Department provided funding of £19.9 million, in the second £16 million and £16.7 million in its third year. £731,936 has been funded during 2008-09 to date.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 18 years were in custody in *(a)* local authority secure units, *(b)* young offender institutions and *(c)* secure training centres at the latest date for which figures are available. [211868]

Beverley Hughes: The following table, which contains information provided by the Youth Justice Board, shows the number of children and young people held in young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes on 30 April 2008.

	Number
Young Offender Institutions	2,549
Secure Training Centres	235
Secure Children's Homes	228
Total	3,012

Young Offenders

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account he takes of the requirements of *(a)* justice and *(b)* welfare in determining his policy on children (i) convicted of criminal offences and (ii) involved in anti-social behaviour. [211866]

Beverley Hughes: All justice and antisocial behaviour interventions for young people consider the need to protect victims, witnesses and the community while enabling the young person to recognise the consequences of their behaviour and support them to change. The Youth Taskforce Action Plan, published on 18 March 2008, sets out the Government's approach to antisocial behaviour by young people and provides a clear focus on prevention, early intervention and enforcement. The focus on prevention and early invention ensures that the welfare of the young person is a central feature of our triple-pronged approach.

We have also clarified the purpose of sentencing for young people which places a duty on the court to have equal regard to:

(a) the principal aim of the youth justice system (which is the prevention of offending or re-offending by young people)

(b) the welfare of the young person in accordance with section 44 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, and

(c) the purposes of sentencing. Which are:

the punishment of offenders

the reform and rehabilitation of offenders

the protection of the public, and

the-making of reparation by offenders affected by their offences.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Human Rights: Iran

11. **Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on human rights. [213066]

Dr. Howells: The human rights situation in Iran is a major concern, and we remain committed to speaking out about this. Together with the EU, we have raised human rights concerns and specific cases with the Iranian authorities on at least 17 occasions this year. With strong UK support, the EU presidency has issued three public declarations in the past two weeks about the execution of juvenile offenders in Iran.

Responsibility to Protect

12. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances the UK would seek to invoke the principle of Responsibility to Protect through the UN Security Council. [213067]

Dr. Howells: The Responsibility to Protect, as agreed in the context of the UN, applies to cases of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. We would therefore want to see Security Council action/discussion where such national authorities are not protecting their own population in such cases.

Republic of Somaliland

13. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of democratic developments in the Republic of Somaliland. [213068]

Dr. Howells: I visited Somaliland last week and was impressed with the work proceeding to ensure free and fair elections are held in early 2009.

The postponement of Somaliland elections for a second time in April this year led to international donors suspending their funding of 75 per cent. of voter registration costs. But I am glad to say that a solution was agreed with the National Electoral Commission enabling funding to be reinstated once election preparations had been made. The authorities are making progress on this.

Burma

14. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Burma. [213069]

Meg Munn: The recent referendum lacks any credibility and the new constitution cannot provide a sound basis for Burma's future. The renewal of Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest on 27 May demonstrates the regime's determination to exclude legitimate political actors from the political process.

Only a process that includes all ethnic groups and political parties can lead to genuine national reconciliation. We will continue to work with regional and other international partners, including at the EU and UN, to encourage genuine democratic change.

Colombia

15. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department collects on trends in the numbers of politically-inspired deaths and disappearances in Colombia. [213070]

Dr. Howells: We collect information on murders and other abuses in Colombia from the United Nations, International Red Cross and a range of governmental and civil society organisations.

We are encouraged that homicides have fallen substantially over the past six years. However, too many people are killed or are victims of abuse, including trade unionists and human rights defenders. The Colombian Government are in no doubt of our concerns on these issues.

We are fighting to eradicate the impunity enjoyed by powerful individuals in Colombia who organise this murder, kidnapping and brutality.

Afghanistan

16. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Afghanistan. [213071]

Dr. Howells: Since 2001 progress towards political stability in Afghanistan has been remarkable. There is now an elected government and parliament; local governance structures are in place; there will be a second round of elections in 2009. This offers the Afghan people a stable and democratic future. But it remains under threat from the Taliban. The UK will continue to support the Afghan government in delivering a better future for its people.

European Union

17. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on recent developments in the European Union. [213072]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out the Government's position following the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty in a statement to the House on 16 June. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a further statement to the House on 23 June on the outcome of discussions on the situation at the European Council.

Democratic Development

18. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to promote and encourage further democratic development in countries where the majority of the population is Muslim. [213073]

Meg Munn: Muslim-majority countries, like others, are at different stages of development. Turkey and Indonesia are developing democracies where universal values apply in diverse cultural and social contexts. Other countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, face challenges that require them to combine political reconciliation with military action, develop a strong and accountable state and practise effective government in all parts of the country. We support voices for positive and progressive democratic change.

Zimbabwe

19. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for free and fair elections for the presidency of Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [213074]

Meg Munn: As my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister have said, the violence, suspension of aid and the ongoing murder and intimidation of ordinary Zimbabweans are unacceptable. The regime lost all vestiges of legitimacy long ago. We continue to work through the EU, UN and African Union to press for solutions to the current electoral crisis that reflect the will of the people as they voted on 29 March.

Simon Mann

20. **Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the fairness of the conditions for the trial of Simon Mann in Equatorial Guinea. [213075]

Meg Munn: We are following Mr. Mann's trial closely.

We would take seriously concerns raised by Mr. Mann and would consider pursuing them with the Equatorial Guinea authorities.

Following repeated requests by Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, our consul in Lagos met Mr. Mann on 20 June.

Gaza-Israel Border Crossings

21. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the security situation at Gaza-Israel border crossings; and if he will make a statement. [213076]

Dr. Kim Howells: The re-opening of the Israeli-Gaza crossings is essential to delivering an improved humanitarian situation in Gaza. We have condemned attacks on the crossings, which only serve to increase the suffering of Gazans and endanger the lives of Israelis.

The recent announcement of a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel opens the prospect of an easing of both the security situation and human suffering. We urge all concerned to take this opportunity.

Sexual Exploitation: United Nations

22. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps the Government have taken to prevent sexual exploitation of people by forces representing the United Nations. [213077]

Dr. Kim Howells: The Government take any cases of sexual abuse by UN forces extremely seriously. Peacekeepers play a brave and vital role in tackling conflict; we expect the highest standards of conduct. We support the UN's 'zero tolerance' approach to sexual exploitation, and are working with them to combat the problem. We fund the UN team that tackles misconduct by troops; conduct and discipline are integral to UK-sponsored peacekeeping training.

Lisbon Treaty

23. **Mr. David Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with European counterparts on the future of the Lisbon Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [213078]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out the Government's position following the Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty in a statement to the House on Monday 16 June. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a further statement to the House on Monday 23 June on the outcome of discussions on the situation at the European Council.

Sudan

24. **Mr. David Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent conflict in Abyei on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [213079]

Meg Munn: The fighting in Abyei could have posed a serious threat to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement have shown their commitment to the CPA by agreeing a Roadmap on 8 June to resolve the Abyei dispute, which has been an obstacle to CPA implementation. We are working with both parties and international partners to implement fully the Abyei Roadmap and the CPA.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212483]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies recognise three trade unions as having the right to represent staff. These are: the Public and Commercial Services Union; the Diplomatic Services Association; which is a branch of the First Division Association; and Prospect.

Ethiopia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the conflict in eastern Ethiopia's Somali Regional State; what assessment he has made of the effect of this conflict on the security situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [212293]

Meg Munn: Since April 2007 the Ethiopian Government have been conducting counter-insurgency operations against the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) in Ethiopia's Somali Regional State. We continue to receive reports, from Ethiopia's Somali Region, of fighting between Ethiopian Government forces and the ONLF which has made it more difficult to respond to humanitarian problems in the area.

The conflict in Ethiopia's Somali Region contributes to instability in the Horn of Africa sub-region, although we are unaware of any direct effects this conflict has on the security situation in Somalia.

France: State Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1775W, on France: state visits, what the additional costs associated with the hosting the UK-France summit were. [211894]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total cost of hosting the UK-France summit was just under £80,000, including costs relating to venue hire, transport, catering, interpretation, media and various miscellaneous costs.

Government Communication Headquarters: Photography

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 667W, on Government Communication Headquarters: photography, how many prosecutions under the Official Secrets Act 1911 have been brought against those taking photographs of Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham; and if he will request the Crown Prosecution Service to investigate whether to prosecute the BBC for displaying such photographs online. [213509]

David Miliband: I am not aware of any prosecutions under the Official Secrets Act 1911 in relation to photography at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). The photos used by the BBC online are with GCHQ's permission and there is therefore no necessity for me to consult the Crown Prosecution Service.

Papua: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in West Papua. [213491]

Meg Munn: We believe that the complex issues in Papua can best be resolved through peaceful dialogue between the people of Papua, their elected representatives and the central government of Indonesia. Indonesian President Yudhoyono has committed his government to improving the situation in Papua, which we welcome. Vice President Kalla, along with a team of ministers, visited Papua most recently in February to discuss economic and social development with representatives of the Papuan people. Governor Suebu, of Papua province, is pressing ahead with his social and economic development programmes, underpinned by the significant financial resources now being directed to Papua as a result of its special autonomy status.

Our embassy in Jakarta follows the situation in Papua closely. They are in regular contact with human rights organisations, non-governmental organisations and academics working in the region. Embassy staff visit Papua regularly.

We continue to encourage all sides to maintain a meaningful dialogue that focuses on implementing fully the existing Special Autonomy legislation. We judge that this is the best way to ensure the long-term stability and development of Papua and its people.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking through the EU to encourage the Indonesian government to enter into internationally-mediated dialogue with representatives of the West Papuan people. [213492]

Meg Munn: We believe that the complex issues in Papua can best be resolved through peaceful dialogue between the people of Papua and their central government. Indonesian President Yudhoyono has committed his government to improving the situation in Papua, which we welcome.

We continue to encourage all sides to support meaningful dialogue and to focus on implementing fully the existing Special Autonomy legislation. We judge that this is the best way to ensure the long-term stability and development of Papua and its people. We do not have any plans with our EU partners to pursue an internationally mediated dialogue on Papua. We support the territorial integrity of Indonesia and do not support calls for independence for Papua.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports the proposal to widen the mandate of the UN Panel of Experts for Somalia to include an Independent Commission of Inquiry into human rights abuses; and if he will make a statement. [212289]

Meg Munn: The UK continually insists that human rights are fully respected by all parties in Somalia and has joined its international partners in clearly saying so in UN Security Council Resolutions, Communiques of the Somalia International Contact Group and Resolutions of the UN Human Rights Council.

The UK fully supports both the UN Security Council Resolution 1814, unanimously adopted on 15 May 2008, and the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions, adopted on 26 May, in support of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the Independent Expert for Somalia, and encourage them to undertake a fact-finding and assessment mission to Somalia to address the human rights situation.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 333W, on Somalia: peacekeeping operations, what steps the Government are taking with its international partners to ensure the full deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia. [212281]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has discussed ongoing Ugandan troop deployment to the African Union mission to Somalia with President Museveni. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, have also raised deployment to the mission with Ghana and Nigeria.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* logistical support the Government is giving to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1816 (2008) on piracy in the waters of the Somalian coast. [212294]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK is not currently providing financial or logistical support to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1816 (2008), although we provide financial assistance in support of the African Union mission in Somalia (about £8 million in the last financial year). The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council of 16 June welcomed the unanimous adoption of the resolution and asked that all possible options are considered on how best to contribute to the implementation of the resolution. We will continue to work with our international partners to tackle the issue of piracy. The prevention of global conflict, which includes piracy, is a key foreign policy objective for the Government.

Sri Lanka: Press Freedom

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on freedom of the press in Sri Lanka. [212335]

Dr. Howells: Sri Lanka is ranked at 156 out of 169 entries in the Reporters Sans Frontières Worldwide Press Freedom Index. We are concerned about a growing number of attacks and about incidents of intimidation against journalists. Our high commissioner in Colombo raised a number of these cases and the wider issue of media freedom with the Sri Lankan government earlier this month.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress towards the implementation of plans under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration in Sudan under UN Security Council Resolution 1784 (2007); and if he will make a statement. [212291]

Meg Munn: The North and South Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Commissions lead on DDR in Sudan with international support from the UN Integrated DDR Unit (UNIDDRU). The UK works closely with the Governments in the North and South, and the UN on DDR, and provides support for capacity building and reintegration expertise in the North and South DDR Commissions and in the UNIDDRU. The parties have agreed a national DDR plan and reintegration policy which provides DDR support for 182,900 ex-combatants, equally split between north and south, over four years. This will be a complex and expensive process requiring commitment from both the Government of National Unity and the international community.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the movement of the Lord's Resistance Army from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo on *(a)* the security situation in southern Sudan and *(b)* the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [212292]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks in southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic which have had a detrimental effect on security in those countries.

The Juba peace process has, over the past two years, increased peace and security in northern Uganda and the surrounding region. The draft Final Peace Agreement between the Ugandan Government and the LRA represents a considerable achievement. The Government have called for it to be signed as soon as possible while recognising that full implementation will depend on the agreement of all parties.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the arrangements for the Durban review conference on racism to be held in Geneva; and if he will make a statement. [212386]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Government officials continue to attend all meetings that deal with the preparations for the Durban Review Conference. The most recent discussions have focused on practical arrangements and procedures for the Review Conference, rather than on substance.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Investment

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to identify those companies which are *(a)* trading with Zimbabwe and *(b)* providing services to Zanu-PF in connection with the re-run of the presidential elections which are (i) UK based, (ii) UK owned and (iii) have UK holding companies. [212823]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The EU Common Position consists of a travel ban and asset freeze on Robert Mugabe and 130 people associated with his regime, most of whom are members of ZANU-PF. Targeted measures are designed to impact on the regime, not on the general population of Zimbabwe. Consistent with this, there are no EU or UK specific economic sanctions that prevent British companies from trading in Zimbabwe.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Schools

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each district of Helmand province, Afghanistan which were open and operating in each of the last eight years. [212384]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for Education (DoE) in Helmand collects information on education in Helmand. While data collection has improved recently, historical data are incomplete.

According to the DoE, there are currently 224 registered schools in Helmand, 29 of them secondary schools. There is one teacher-training college, one agricultural college and one technical college. However, only around 50 of these schools are open and active, three of them secondary schools.

The breakdown by district is as follows:

Baghran: six schools open out of 19
Gereshk: seven schools open out of 23
Musa Qaleh: one school open out of 19 plus one madrassa
Nad Ali: five schools open out of 19
Nawa: three schools open out of 20
Naw Zad: six schools open out of 20
Lashkar Gah: 20 schools open out of 27
Sangin: one school open out of 11

There are no figures for Garmsir, Dishu, Kaneshin, Kajaki or Washir districts.

Where schools have closed due to the security situation in Helmand, it is common for informal education to run out of houses or in mosques. Some communities have been seeking to formalise such arrangements as outreach classes connected to hub schools in accordance with the National Strategy for Education, allowing the use of the formal curriculum and textbooks.

Asia: Economic Growth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has commissioned on the consequences of rapid economic growth in Asia, with particular reference to the consumption of environmental resources in the last three years. [212713]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There has been no general research commissioned on this subject. However, a study has been carried out on ecosystems and poverty alleviation in South Asia. This was completed in April 2008. Under the Sustainable Development Dialogue with China, we will be carrying out a joint research project with the Chinese on how to achieve sustainable long-distance fisheries.

Asia: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS infection in East and South-East Asia. [212711]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID is supporting action on HIV and AIDS through its country programmes in Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam. In Burma, DFID is contributing funds through a £20 million contribution to a $100 million joint donor health fund, which includes support to activities in line with the national strategic plan for HIV prevention, treatment and care. In Cambodia, DFID has provided £15.6 million over five years to support the Government of Cambodia's response to HIV and AIDS, and £7.1 million for support to condom social marketing, which is aimed at improving condom use among high risk groups. In China, DFID is providing £30 million over four and a half years to help the Government of China's national HIV and AIDS programme. This is part of a £92 million programme that is also supported by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. In Indonesia, DFID has contributed £25 million over three years through the Indonesia Partnership Fund, which supports a National Action Framework on HIV and AIDS. In Vietnam, DFID is contributing £17 million over five years in a joint HIV prevention programme with Norway.

In the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 total bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS in East and South East Asia was £83 million. DFID also provides multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, some of which is used to tackle HIV and AIDS in South East Asia. For example, DFID has provided over £180 million in core support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07. A summary of DFID expenditure in the region is shown in the following table:

DFID bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS, 2004-05 to 2006-07

£000

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Vietnam	3,062	3,095	3,023
China	5,306	5,862	5,221
Cambodia	5,775	6,541	5,807
Burma	3,617	3,965	3,860
Indonesia	76	12,024	12,128
East Timor		1,000	1,399
Philippines	82	128	84
South East Asia		245	495

Burma: Human Trafficking

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance has been given to *(a)* aid agencies and *(b)* the government of Thailand to retrieve children trafficked out of Myanmar. [212261]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a £2.5 million regional Save the Children programme to work against the trafficking and exploitation of migrant and vulnerable children. The programme operates in six countries in south-east Asia: Thailand, China, Laos, Cambodia, Burma and Vietnam. The goal of the programme is to ensure that effective mechanisms are established to protect vulnerable in-country and cross-border migrant children from harm, abuse, and exploitation, particularly trafficking. Models of child protection systems are being developed and promoted for the children most at risk as a result of in-country and cross-border migration.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of reconstruction needs in Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [212290]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A 250-strong Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-United Nations (UN) assessment team is currently in country working alongside the UN, INGOs and government to carry out needs assessments in cyclone-affected areas. Their first report is expected on 24 June, and this will provide us with information about reconstruction requirements. We are aware that there are likely to be significant longer-term reconstruction needs and will consider options for assisting with reconstruction. But our current focus is on responding to the immediate humanitarian effects and needs for relief and early recovery.

Cambodia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding allocations his Department has made to Cambodia under the auspices of the International Health Partnership in the last three financial years. [212712]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Cambodia signed the International Health Partnership (IHP) in September 2007. We are currently designing a £30 million contribution to a new multi-donor five-year programme of support to the health sector under IHP. The new programme will start in January 2009 and will pool donor funds in support of service delivery and improved resource allocation. In addition to this, over the last three financial years through the Health Sector Support Project we have provided the following core support to the health sector:

£2,053,624 in 2006-07;

£2,099,211 in 2007-08; and

£2,550,000 is planned for 2008-09.

This does not include wider dedicated support for HIV, reproductive health and maternal mortality reduction.

Central Asia: Economic Growth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports his Department has received on the economic growth rates of Central Asian countries; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's contribution to economic development in such countries. [212706]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Growth rates in Central Asian countries are as follows: the Kyrgyz Republic (4.5 per cent.); Uzbekistan (5.7 per cent.); Tajikistan (8.7 per cent.); Kazakhstan (10.1 per cent.) and Turkmenistan (14.6 per cent.). Figures use the average annual real gross domestic product (GDP) between 2000 and 2007.

DFID's work in Central Asia to date has focused on the two poorest and most fragile countries—Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. In both countries, DFID supports the Government's economic growth plans, focusing on the need to ensure that they bring benefits to the poor and vulnerable, particularly in rural areas. For example, in Tajikistan, our work with rural communities in the remote Zarafshan Valley has provided access to microfinance for its 270,000 population. This is already leading to the development of successful small businesses. We actively support the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's work in the region through their Early Transition Countries Initiative (ETCI). A recent independent evaluation of the ETC Multi Donor Fund (we have contributed £7.5 million over four years so far) confirmed that this was leading to a substantial increase in EBRD operations in most of the region.

DFID is currently preparing a new business plan for the Central Asia region which will be centred on promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth. Over the next three years our bilateral programme is set to increase from £10 million to £14 million per year.

China: EU

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the China-EU dialogue on Africa; and what decisions have been made. [213236]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK supports increased contacts between the EU and China on Africa. The visit by Development Commissioner Louis Michel to Beijing in April 2008 has provided a solid basis for further co-operation. The UK has contributed to the Commission Communication on 'The EU, Africa and China: Towards trilateral dialogue and cooperation on Africa's peace, stability and sustainable development'. There is scope for China and the EU to engage more closely on both development and conflict resolution issues, in partnership with African countries.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce HIV/AIDS in middle income countries. [213058]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government's updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" sets out our approach for tackling HIV and AIDS in Middle-Income Countries (MICs). A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

As the strategy notes, MICs have substantial national resources to support HIV/AIDS responses. Therefore, international support needs to focus on transferring knowledge and expertise, helping ensure policies address inequality which have a pro-poor focus, and providing technical assistance and human resources.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, bilateral and multilateral partners, and civil society and private sector organisations to deliver an effective HIV/AIDS response in MICs.

East Asia: Poverty

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people living on less than $1 a day in East Asia. [212702]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses estimates produced by the World Bank. The latest data are from 2004. It shows that 9.9 per cent. of people were living on less than $1 a day in East Asia. More recent data are currently being finalised by the World Bank using new measures of purchasing power generated from the International Comparison Programme.

Indian Ocean Tsunami

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's contribution to the multi-donor fund for the tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia on the re-building of social and economic infrastructure in the region. [212715]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £38.5 million to the Multi Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias (MDF), representing 11 per cent. of total funds. The UK is the third largest contributor. The effectiveness of DFID's contribution has been reviewed annually. The last review concluded that UK support is meeting the objectives of responding efficiently and effectively to the needs of the affected population. Although the challenge of post tsunami reconstruction is large and complex, the MDF has made a significant impact. The MDF is managed by a Secretariat based in the World Bank, and applies high standards of financial management and sound anti-corruption measures. This has enabled the rebuilding of vital social and economic infrastructure. Results so far include the building or repair of over 3,000 houses, with a further 8,000 under construction or repair; 2,200 km of roads; 1,100 bridges; and transportation of 98,000 metric tonnes of reconstruction materials.

Iraq

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of risk experienced by *(a)* his Department's staff and *(b)* the staff of agencies engaged to implement his policies while working in Iraq in the last two years; and what the primary sources of such risks are. [212707]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) staff and technical advisers working on DFID's behalf in Iraq are covered by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) risk assessment and security management procedures. The level of risk and its sources changes frequently, and security provisions are reviewed accordingly, to ensure maximum safety of DFID staff and technical advisers.

Tajikistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan following severe winter weather in 2007. [212705]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Over the last few months, staff visited all DFID-funded emergency activities in Tajikistan. This included meetings with beneficiaries who had received and used items from our air-lifts, as well as items distributed through funding to NGOs. Over 300,000 of the most vulnerable people were targeted specifically by NGO distributions. As a result, they were able to buy staple food and cooking oil, as well as use fuel and blankets to stay warm. Other benefits, particularly in more urban areas, included reopening hospitals which had been empty without electricity and drugs, and providing safe drinking water to those who had been without for several weeks.

Some emergency activities are still ongoing. Once they are complete, we will undertake a full impact assessment of our support. We have also urged the United Nations to undertake an evaluation of the impact of its International Appeal. Both assessments will help the international community and the

Government of Tajikistan improve their planning and response in the event of a similar situation this winter.

Three Faces of India: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the Three Faces of India plan in the next seven years; and if he will make a statement. [213314]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: To implement the Three Faces of India plan, the Department for International Development (DFID) will spend £825 million during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. A budget has not been set beyond this period, but, depending on developments, the overall aid allocation is likely to decline as India becomes a Middle Income Country.

The Three Faces of India plan can be accessed at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/india-cap.asp

Vietnam: Health Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for clean needle exchange programmes in Vietnam since 2006. [212704]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID funds a £14.6 million project on HIV prevention and harm reduction in Vietnam. The budget allocated to the programme in 2006, 2007 and 2008 was £2.3, £4.8 and £3.7 million respectively. A needle exchange programme is a key component of the assistance and has received a rising share of the budget each year since 2006. The figures for clean needle distribution by the project are as follows:

	Million
2006	1.5
2007	6.8
2008	[1]10

[1] Expected. 2.3 million were distributed in the first quarter.

Yemen: Primary Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports his Department has received on gender equality in primary school enrolment in Yemen. [212710]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In May 2008, the Yemen Ministry of Education reported to the Joint Annual Review of the Government's Basic Education Development Strategy. This is the most recent report the Department for International Development (DFID) has received, and includes data on gender equality in enrolment for the first nine years of education (basic education). According to the report, total girls' enrolment in basic education was 1.8 million in 2006-07, compared to 2.5 million for boys. This represents a gender gap in enrolment of 29 per cent. However, many girls drop out of school early, with only 18 per cent. remaining until the last year of basic education.

DFID is contributing £15 million over six years (2004-09) to a multi-donor basic education programme. This programme aims to increase enrolments for both boys and girls, and to improve the quality of basic education. It also includes targeted measures to improve girls' admission and retention.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 June 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213703]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not undertaken any new builds or major refurbishments in this period.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213754]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not undertaken any new builds or major refurbishments in this period.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212049]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Departmental Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the average number of days taken as sick leave in his Department was in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [213204]

David Cairns: All Scotland Office staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; the office does not maintain a central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what modelling National Air Traffic Services have carried out on public safety zones; and what methodology underpins the modelling. [213478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: National Air Traffic Services have modelled all public safety zones (PSZs) since, and including, the review of PSZs undertaken by the Department for Transport in 2002. The methodology underpinning this modelling is considered in the Department's publication Third Party Risk Near Airports and Public Safety Zone Policy' (ISBN 1 85112 418 7) as part of the studies that informed the review.

This document is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/safety/thirdpartyrisknearairportsan2989.

Bournemouth Airport

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are plans to upgrade the main road serving Bournemouth International Airport in light of the planned expansion of the airport. [208775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Manchester Airports Ltd., the owner of Bournemouth International Airport, has recently been granted planning permission to redevelop the existing terminal in order to cater for the predicted increase in passenger throughput from 917,000 passengers per annum in 2005-06 to 4.5 million by 2030. The approval was conditional upon its undertaking improvements to junctions on the existing network in the immediate vicinity of the airport and funding better public transport links to Bournemouth. It did not require the construction of a link to the A338 Bournemouth Spur road.

The draft Master Plan for Bournemouth Airport confirms that, based on current transport growth trends, a new road link from the A338 is not necessary for the airport to achieve its planned growth.

Furthermore, the South West region has not identified such a link as a regional priority within its regional funding allocation advice to Government, and no Major Scheme bid has yet been received by the Department for Transport.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which trade unions represent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport staff are represented by the following trade unions: Public and Commercial Services, First Division Association and Prospect. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency are also represented by Unite.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures her Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if she will make a statement. [213134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 938W.

Fuels: Prices

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information she holds on the percentage change in the pump price of *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel in each (i) EU and (ii) G8 country between January 2005 and April 2008; and what the average price change has been. [213487]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform publishes data on EU pump prices in their Quarterly Energy Prices publication available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

Table 1 as follows illustrates the EU pump prices in each individual country between January 2005 and April 2008. These numbers are in nominal terms and during this time the €/£ exchange rate changed from €1.43/£1 to €1.26/£1.

The Department for Transport does not hold such information for G8 member countries.

Table 1. Fuel prices in EU member states (pence per litre)

	Petrol pump prices			*Diesel pump prices*		
	January 2005	*April 2008*	*Percentage change*	*January 2005*	*April 2008*	*Percentage change*
United Kingdom	79.0	107.6	36	84.2	116.6	39
Austria	64.0	98.8	54	58.8	99.7	70
Belgium	75.1	113.6	51	60.0	95.9	60
Denmark	77.2	111.0	44	63.9	105.8	66
Finland	80.4	113.0	41	61.6	100.1	63
France	73.0	110.2	51	64.3	102.8	60
Germany	78.1	112.7	44	68.2	106.5	56
Greece	53.9	89.7	66	54.4	94.5	74
Ireland	66.2	95.0	44	66.7	96.4	44
Italy	76.5	110.2	44	70.6	107.5	52
Luxembourg	63.4	96.3	52	50.9	89.8	76
Netherlands	87.8	124.3	42	63.9	103.7	62
Portugal	70.1	111.7	59	58.6	99.8	70
Spain	59.4	90.3	52	56.8	91.8	62
Sweden	77.6	105.6	36	68.7	109.0	59
Cyprus	53.2	82.2	55	50.7	86.5	71
Czech Republic	56.8	98.6	74	57.2	100.6	76
Estonia	47.4	83.8	77	49.0	91.0	86
Hungary	67.5	94.0	39	66.0	98.7	50
Latvia	50.4	83.0	65	49.4	87.6	77
Lithuania	49.8	84.1	69	50.3	87.9	75
Malta	60.9	87.1	43	58.3	87.6	50
Poland	61.7	100.1	62	58.6	99.0	69
Slovakia	60.2	96.8	61	61.4	102.6	67
Slovenia	57.7	85.4	48	57.4	88.8	55
EU average	65.9	99.4	51	60.4	98.0	62

Note:

No data for pump prices in January 2005 were available for Bulgaria and Romania.

Lorries: Working Hours

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers of foreign-registered lorries have been prosecuted for exceeding limitations on driving hours in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [213941]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has not prosecuted any drivers of foreign-registered lorries for exceeding limitations on driving hours in the last 12 months.

There were very few prosecutions of drivers of foreign-registered lorries because it is not possible—either for VOSA or the police—to require non-UK residents to return to the UK to attend court on such matters. The introduction of graduated fixed penalties and deposits in spring 2009 will, however, ensure that they do pay the relevant penalty.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Blue Badge disabled driver badges were issued in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in 1987; and what percentages occurred in such numbers between 1987 and 2007. [213560]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on Blue Badge (previously Orange Badge) disabled parking permits are only available from 1994/95 onwards. Data are collected at county and unitary authority level only. It is therefore not available for Chorley, only Lancashire as a whole. Data are only available for England and not for the UK.

The latest available figures, as at 31 March for each year, are as follows: in 1995, 58,040 badges were issued in Lancashire and 1,462,798 in England as a whole. In 2007, 69,306 badges were issued in Lancashire and 2,318,367 in England.

This shows a 19 per cent. increase in Lancashire and a 58 per cent. increase for England between 1995 and 2007.

Railways: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of *(a)* rail and *(b)* road are planned to be constructed in (i) Leeds West constituency and (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District in the next 10 years; and in what location in each case. [213357]

Mr. Tom Harris: Information in regards to rail is a matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. Network Rail has advised that the information requested is not available.

On roads, there are currently two local major road schemes that are currently under construction within the Leeds Metropolitan district. These schemes are being taken forward by Leeds city council, as local highway authority, with the Department providing funding towards the scheme costs. Both are expected to be completed and opened to traffic later this year. Details are as follows:

East Leeds Link Road—this scheme is 2.4 miles in length and will connect the Inner Ring Road Stages 6 and 7, at South Accommodation Road, with the M1 at Junction 45.

Leeds Inner Ring Road Stage 7—this scheme is a 0.8 mile dual-carriageway extension largely on a viaduct from the recently completed Inner Ring Road Stage 6 to the Hunslet Distributor Road.

The Highways Agency is responsible for trunk roads and motorways. There are currently no Highways Agency roads within the Leeds West constituency. However, the Agency is currently examining the options for capacity and traffic management improvements on the M62 Junction 25-28 and M1 Junction 39-42, of which junctions 27-28 of the M62 and junctions 41-42 falls within the Leeds Metropolitan district area.

The M62 Junction 27-28 is approximately 3.29 miles and the M1 Junction 41-42 is 1.52 miles in length. It is not possible to cite the lengths of additional lane planned to be constructed, because options are still being examined and no specific scheme proposal has yet been approved.

In addition, there could be other schemes that are either underway or planned which will be funded by private developers with the two locations.

We expect to seek updated advice from regions on their transport priorities later in the summer as part of the second round of the regional funding allocations process. This will provide the opportunity for Leeds city council to inform the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Transport Board of any future proposals for local major road and public transport schemes.

Trains: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* locomotives, *(b)* multiple units, *(c)* freight wagons and *(d)* carriages of each class were in use by each train operating company on the rail networks through Leeds West constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [213333]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels: EU Action

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on EU targets on levels of biofuels use in the EU, with particular reference to their effect on food prices and food security in the EU. [213846]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are concerned about the effect of rising food prices and the contribution that the demand for biofuels can make to that. The Government will consider their position on the EU targets for biofuels in the light of the findings of the Gallagher Review, due to be published shortly.

Climate Change Bill

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the costs and benefits stated in the final impact assessment of the Climate Change Bill with reference to the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest interest rate used in the Stern review. [213830]

Mr. Woolas: The Stern review does not set out any assumptions regarding interest rates. Therefore it is not possible to provide estimates of the costs and benefits of the Climate Change Bill using these assumptions.

Ozone Layer

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the quantity of ozone-depleting substances that will enter the waste stream in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [213103]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of ozone-depleting substances arising from the disposal of plastic foam insulation in building panels which will enter the waste stream in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [213104]

Mr. Woolas: Current estimates suggest that the proportion of ozone-depleting substances arising from the disposal of plastic foam insulation in building panels entering the waste stream between 2008 and 2010 should not be significant as the panels will still be in use in buildings.

The significance of plastic foam insulation as waste is expected to increase in the longer term as more buildings containing these panels are redeveloped. A rough approximation drawing on wider European and global estimates would suggest that around 100,000 tonnes of ozone-depleting substances might be in some one million tonnes of buildings foam in existing buildings in the UK.

Estimates are not available of overall quantities of ozone-depleting substances that will enter the waste stream in 2008-10. Ozone-depleting substances are currently being recovered for destruction from refrigeration and cooling equipment, from some insulation panels from cold stores and from walk-in refrigerators and end-of-life vehicles.

Pest Control

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many infestations of *(a)* rats and *(b)* other vermin were reported in each region in England in each year since 1997. [213494]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: DEFRA does not collect statistics on the number of reported infestations of rats or other "vermin".

DEFRA will shortly be publishing an interim report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received from the Pesticides Safety Directorate on EU proposals to legislate in the area of crop protection. [212255]

Mr. Woolas: The Pesticides Safety Directorate recently prepared a report assessing the impact on crop protection in the UK of hazard-based approval criteria for active substances and provisions for comparative assessment and substitution of products, which are contained in the Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the

European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. The report assesses the potential impact of the Commission's proposals and of amendments adopted in the first reading report of the Parliament. It concludes that the Commission's proposals could remove up to 15 per cent. of the active substances assessed, while the Parliament's proposed amendments could ultimately remove up to 85 per cent. of those substances.

I have put a copy of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Pesticides: EU Law

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the position of the Government is on proposed changes to EU rules for approval and use of pesticides. [214162]

Mr. Woolas: The Government agree that plant protection products should be properly controlled, and support much of the proposed regulation, particularly where it would improve harmonisation. The Government are, however, concerned that the proposals for hazard cut-off criteria could remove some active substances which are very important for agriculture and horticulture without securing any meaningful benefit in terms of consumer safety. The Government therefore abstained from voting when the presidency's compromise text was put to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council for political agreement in June.

Rivers: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit rivers Beane and Mimram in Hertfordshire to assess the condition of chalk rivers in Hertfordshire. [210239]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the Environment Agency for a report into this subject.

Seagulls and Pigeons

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates his Department and its predecessors have made of the size of the *(a)* seagull and *(b)* pigeon population in England in each year since 1997. [213496]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

Gulls

The numbers of gulls breeding in England are only periodically surveyed. The last survey ('Seabird 2000') was carried out during the period 1998 to 2002. By comparing with the previous survey, conducted during 1985-88, Natural England is able to estimate changes in the size of English breeding populations. The following table provides estimates of the current (1998 to 2002) breeding abundance and recent (since 1985-88) population trends for the four most widespread species in England.

Species	*Estimated number of breeding pairs (1998 to 2002)*	*Breeding population trend (1985-88 to 1998 to 2002) (percentage)*
Black-headed gull	82,728	+0.5
Lesser black-backed gull	44,133	+98
Herring gull	43,932	+59
Great black-backed gull	1,476	+4

Small numbers of both common and Mediterranean gull also nest in England.

Pigeons

There has been no assessment of the size of the breeding population of woodpigeons in England since 1988-91, when it was estimated at about 1.5 million pairs. Trends in the breeding season abundance of woodpigeons in England have been monitored annually since 1994 by the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), co-ordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology. Between 1994 and 2005, the numbers recorded by the BBS in England increased by 29 per cent. (and between 1999 and 2005 by 14 per cent.).

Feral pigeon population size was estimated at over 100,000 pairs in 1968-72 and 100,000-250,000 pairs in 1988-91. Data from the BBS have so far shown neither a significant increase nor decrease in the feral pigeon population since 1994.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost to local authorities of clearing up after damage arising from *(a)* seagull and *(b)* pigeon populations. [213497]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* DEFRA does not hold information on costs incurred by local authorities for clearing up damage arising from gull and pigeon populations.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of all UK military operations in Afghanistan has been since 2007. [213769]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 163W to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski).

Aircraft Carriers: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 255W, on aircraft carriers: nuclear power, what the price of oil was on the date the assessment was made; and what effect the increase in the price of oil since that date has had on the assumptions behind the aircraft carrier programme. [212464]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average price of Brent Crude during the period of the assessment was approximately $19 per barrel. The assumptions behind the UK's aircraft carrier programme remain sound and we are committed to the manufacture of these vessels, to their conventionally powered design, to meet the stated in-service dates.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many more bearskin caps it is possible to make from pelts purchased by his Department prior to 2003. [212925]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD has never purchased any bearskin pelts, only completed caps.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what materials have been tested as an alternative to real fur for bearskin caps other than that provided by PETA. [212926]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The materials tested as an alternative to real fur for bearskin caps are:

100 per cent. nylon—single denier and mixed denier monofilaments

Nylon mixed with mohair; Dynel™ (modacrylic); Rhovyl™ (PVC); single breed wool; two breeds of wool

100 per cent. Orion™ (acrylic pile)—26 oz and 30 oz

100 per cent. modacrylic—several versions

Acrylic/modacrylic blends—15 different samples in various percentage blends and constructions from various companies

Modacrylic/polyester blend

100 per cent. polyester—fibre and pile types

100 per cent. polypropylene

100 per cent. mohair

Mohair blended with wool; alpaca (several versions); llama

Various wools and sheepskins

Wool blended with hair; viscose

Unknowns—samples have been received under company trade names with no fibre content given.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target inflow, *(b)* inflow and *(c)* outflow for each unit in the (i) infantry, (ii) Royal Corps of Signals, (iii) Royal Logistics Corps, (iv) Royal Engineers and (v) Royal Artillery was in each month since January 2008. [211958]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested.

Due to ongoing validation of data following the implementation of the new joint personnel administration system, flows information is only available at the Army level and is not yet available broken down to Arm/Service level. Unit level flows for the Army are not routinely published and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department depreciates its vehicles, computer hardware and telecommunications equipment as shown in the following table.

	Category	*Years*
Transport	Specialised vehicles	15-30
	Other standard vehicles	3-5
IT and Comms equipment	Computer hardware	3-10
	Telecommunications equipment	3-30

It is not possible to provide information at a departmental level with regard to a 'standard' period over which computer software is depreciated; however, in determining the appropriate period for this and all other asset categories the Department is consistent with the accounting treatment laid out in the financial reporting manual (FReM).

Also in accordance with the FReM the Department does not capitalise furniture, therefore costs are immediately expensed to the operating cost statement.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200020]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, records are available of services provided by polling companies which relate primarily to recruitment activities by the armed forces, and polling carried out by our central media and communications division to establish the attitudes of the public to various aspects of defence activity. In financial year 2007-08, the following were completed.

Purpose	*Firm employed*
Top level reputation tracking of the MOD and armed forces	Ipsos MORI
Army reputation tracking	Populus
Territorial Army recruitment and retention	Cragg Ross Dawson[1]
Website visitor survey assessing views on the Royal Marine website	Virtual Surveys[1]
Online surveys and interviews to inform recruiting to the Army Medical Services	ICM[1]

[1] Procured through Central Office of Information.

Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether destroyers withdrawn from the fleet in the next five years are scheduled to be replaced on a one-for-one basis. [210473]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: As I said in my reply to the hon. Member on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1099W, we do not intend to increase the current order of six Type 45 destroyers. Therefore, only the first six Type 42 destroyers due to be withdrawn will be replaced by Type 45s.

Lynx Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Future Lynx helicopters will be deployed to *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force; and from which ships the Navy helicopters will be flown. [211500]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with AgustaWestland for the delivery of 70 Future Lynx helicopters comprising 40 battlefield variant to enter service with the Army, and 30 maritime variant to enter service with the Royal Navy. None are due to be delivered to the Royal Air Force. It is intended that the Future Lynx maritime variant will operate principally from our Type 22 and Type 23 frigates and our Type 45 destroyers, although they will be capable of operating from other vessels as required.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Merlin helicopters acquired from Denmark carry the TCAS collision avoidance system and weather radar; and what maintenance schedule has been established for these systems; [212083]

(2) what assessment he has made of the load capacity of the flooring in the Merlin helicopters acquired from Denmark; and if he will make a statement. [212084]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All six of the helicopters acquired from Denmark, now designated as Merlin MK3a, were delivered fitted with a Terrain collision Avoidance system (TCAS) and whether radar system. These systems are not fitted to our other Merlin MK3 aircraft and therefore no long-term support is planned. We do, however, intend to evaluate the performance of the systems to inform future requirements which, if funded, would include appropriate long-term support arrangements.

The floor of the MK3a has a slightly different construction to our existing MK3 aircraft, but the uniformly distributed load capacity is the same. The Mk3 is capable of carrying 24 troops with their equipment and the full range of equipment required to be carried by this aircraft on operations.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's target is for the proportion of Merlin Mark 1 helicopters to be operational; and what proportion are operational. [212331]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The target forward fleet of Merlin Mk 1 helicopters available to the front line command for training and operations is 30, which represents 71 per cent. of the departmental fleet of 42. The number in the forward fleet as at 17 June 2008 is 23, which represents 55 per cent. of the departmental fleet.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Environment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for public funding were *(a)* submitted and *(b)* granted by the Legal Services Commission for environmental cases in each year since 2000. [212993]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission does not record information in such a way as to enable it to identify the number of applications for public funding of cases relating to environmental cases as this is not a distinct category of law under which legal aid is recorded. However, environmental matters may be funded under the legal aid scheme if there is sufficient public interest to do so.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many protective costs orders were granted by the Supreme Court of England and Wales for environmental cases in each year since 2000. [212994]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not held centrally and could be compiled only through a manual inspection of historic case records which would be disproportionately costly.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the civil procedure rules committee will consult the public on possible amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules in relation to costs and interim remedies to ensure compliance with the provisions of Article 9(4) of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; and if he will make a statement. [213013]

Bridget Prentice: The Civil Procedure Rule Committee consults such persons as (it) considers appropriate under the Civil Procedure Act 3(1)(a). However the Committee's current programme of work does not include consideration of amendments arising from the UNECE convention on access to information.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications' equipment. [213224]

Mr. Wills: Departments should depreciate their assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). Depreciation rates for assets vary depending upon the user's anticipated life of the asset.

Following the creation of the MoJ, which brought together entities from two separate Departments, the Department will be reviewing its depreciation rates.

The core Department, HM Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, and the Office of the Public Guardian depreciate assets over the following periods:

(a) Vehicles: three to four years;

(b) Computer hardware: seven years;

(c) (Developed) computer software: seven years;

(d) Standard computer software: not capitalised unless part of the package bought with qualifying capital hardware;

(e) Furniture: high-density storage systems 10 years. (Other furniture is only capitalised in exceptional circumstances and is pooled by site depreciated over 10 years); and

(f) Telecommunications equipment: seven years.

HMPS

The Prison Service Agency depreciates assets over the following periods:

(a) Vehicles: five to 10 years (cars five years, vans seven years, lorries 10 years);

(b) Computer hardware: three years;

(c) Bespoke computer software: five to seven years;

(d) Standard computer software: five to seven years;

(e) Furniture: seven years; and

(f) Telecommunications equipment: five years.

The majority of furniture acquired by HMPS is for staff and inmates and is not capitalised.

NOMS

NOMS depreciates assets over the following periods:

(a) Vehicles: five to 10 years (cars five years, vans seven years, lorries 10 years);

(b) Computer hardware: three years;

(c) Bespoke computer software: seven years;

(d) Standard computer software: five years;

(e) Furniture: five years; and

(f) Telecommunications equipment: five years.

OCJR

OCJR depreciates assets over the following periods:

(a) Vehicles: none held;

(b) Computer hardware: non-PC five years, PC three years;

(c) Bespoke computer software: non-PC five years, PC three years (some exceptions where extended to seven years);

(d) Standard computer software: non-PC five years, PC three years;

(e) Furniture: none held; and

(f) Telecommunications equipment: none held.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expert groups his Department set up in each year since it was established. [213200]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Since that date, the Ministry has established the following expert groups:

Drug Treatment in Prisons Group (disbanded November 2007)

Prison Drug Treatment Review Group

Sentencing Commission Working Group

Advisory Board on Joint Inspection in the Criminal Justice System

Reference Panel on Rights and Responsibilities

Family Courts Information Pilot Advisory Board

Divorce Forms Reference Group

Care Proceedings Implementation Steering Group and Training Sub Group

Advisory Committee on Civil Costs

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209247]

Mr. Wills: Following the creation of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), a high-level transport plan is currently being developed to help reduce the environmental impact of travel.

Parts of the MoJ have created transport plans and are implementing these within their individual areas.

The MoJ transport plan is expected to be complete by summer 2008 and a copy will be placed within the Library when complete.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213136]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice applies the Cabinet Office Baseline Personnel Security Standard for recruitment to the civil service. This includes a check on each individual's identity, employment history, nationality or immigration status and criminal record. More rigorous procedures may additionally be applied depending on the security status of the role or its location.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213156]

Mr. Wills: My Department does not hold this information centrally and it is, therefore, not possible to collate it without incurring disproportionate costs.

Criminal Records Bureau checks are completed for certain posts dependant on location and role.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has issued to electoral registration officers on following up non-responses to the electoral canvas *(a)* by post and *(b)* via a home visit; what monitoring his Department has undertaken of implementation of this guidance; and if he will make a statement. [212923]

Bridget Prentice: Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once and making house visits.

Responsibility for issuing guidance to electoral registration officers on electoral registration lies with the Electoral Commission and thus my Department has not made any assessment about the level of compliance with guidelines for following up non-responses to the electoral canvass.

The Act includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance measures for electoral registration officers. The Electoral Commission is currently developing these standards and the final standards will be published in July 2008, a copy of which will be laid before the House. This will give us a better understanding of the actions being taken to increase registration.

Electorate

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of registered voters there were in each constituency *(a)* in the first year after the most recent Boundary Review and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available, ranked in descending order of number of electors. [211442]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions asking how many and what proportion of registered voters there were in each constituency (a) in the first year after the most recent Boundary Review and (b) in the most recent period for which figures are available, ranking in descending order of number of electors. (211442).

Figures for the Parliamentary electorate for each parliamentary constituency for 1997 and 2007 are provided in Tables 1 and 2. Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Office for National Statistics does not hold data for the population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, which includes British Citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within the England and Wales. It is not therefore possible to provide the proportions requested.

Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to record the number of cases brought before the courts in England and Wales for crimes committed against persons arising from their having left the Islamic faith. [209517]

Maria Eagle: We do not have any plans to introduce a data collection to provide the information requested since the cost would be disproportionate. The courts always take mitigating and aggravating circumstances into account when sentencing an offender. This can include circumstances relating to faith or change of faith, if they are relevant to the offence. However, aggravating or mitigating factors are not collated as part of our data collection. As these factors cover an enormous range and variety of circumstances, to do so would be complex and extremely resource intensive.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Office in each of the last three years. [213524]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) today.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels Downing street subscribes; and at what annual cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210894]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Post Offices: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Prime Minister if he will visit post offices in Castle Point to discuss the Government's policy on closures; and if he will make a statement. [213040]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Office in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213770]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Office originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213771]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) today.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213292]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has only made bonus payments in the last two financial years.

In 2006-07, three members of staff received bonuses, representing five per cent. of the workforce. All of the bonuses together came to £862.30 before tax, and the largest single payment was £362.30.

In 2007-08, four members of staff received bonuses, representing seven per cent. of the workforce. All of the bonuses together came to £1,250.00 before tax, and the largest single payment was £350.00

Departmental Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average number of days taken as sick leave in his Department was in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [213202]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Figures for the level of sickness absence at the Wales Office are available for each financial year since April 2004.

The average number of days of sickness absence is as follows:

	Days
2004-05	4.59
2005-06	3.36
2006-07	5.18
2007-08	[1]9.27

[1] Average is skewed by isolated incidents of long term sickness absence.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213159]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office was created in 1999. It only recruits existing civil servants and does not conduct criminal records checks itself.

All staff are required to have Counter Terrorism Clearance (and in some cases Developed Vetting). This includes disclosure of all criminal convictions (spent and unspent).

Some staff have active clearance when they join us. Others are cleared on appointment. This is undertaken by the Ministry of Justice, and details of criminal records checked are not disclosed to us.

Providing numbers appointed and number of clearances requested over the past nine years could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Broadcasting

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many minutes of advertising were broadcast per hour of commercial television programming in each year since 1979; [212591]

(2) how many minutes of advertising were broadcast per hour of children's television programming in *(a)* the last period for which figures are available and *(b)* each year since 1979. [212592]

Andy Burnham: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Directives currently impose a maximum limit of 12 minutes of advertising per hour on television. This is also subject to an EU maximum average of nine minutes per hour. Within this European framework, the rules set by Ofcom impose further limits on public service channels which are subject to an overall maximum average of seven minutes per hour, and a specific average of eight minutes per hour between 6pm and 11pm. These restrictions are set out in Ofcom's rules on the amount and distribution of advertising. The limits do not include the amount of time that channels may use for promoting their programmes. Nor do they include 'teleshopping windows', which involve direct offers to viewers to purchase goods and services, for example by placing an order by telephone or e-mail. Ofcom requires broadcasters to comply with these rules, and receives independently-sourced data on many channels, including the public service channels.

Under the new Audio Visual Media Services Directive, the European framework for advertising regulation has been revised and Ofcom recently consulted on whether to make changes to the UK rules. Ofcom aims to announce its decision later this year.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213394]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For DCMS as an entity, freehold land is restated to current value every five years using professional valuations in accordance with FRS 15. The freehold land was last valued professionally as at 31 March 2006. Assets have not been restated using appropriate indices because the modified historic costs are not materially different to the historic costs, therefore the historic costs have been shown in the balance sheet.

The Royal Parks properties are revalued as part of a five year rolling programme, using a methodology in line with the Government financial reporting manual (FreM). From 1 April 2007 The Royal Parks changed its policy on Government index revaluations. The Royal Parks considers that these revaluations do not have a material effect and as allowed under FRS15 has discontinued Government index revaluations for assets that are not physically revalued. These assets are shown at their 31 March 2007 current cost less depreciation.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213393]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Although the DCMS has no plans to relocate posts, over 950 posts from our sponsored bodies are planned to relocate by 2010. This exceeds by over 50 per cent. the Department's agreed target of 600 relocated posts. To date, 661 posts from DCMS sponsored bodies have relocated already.

Digital Broadcasting

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [212601]

Andy Burnham: Overall, switchover in Copeland was successful, although we do realise that there are lessons to be learned.

This experience will help with work being done in the area surrounding the Selkirk transmitter which is the next place scheduled for switchover. Progress here is good: 99 per cent.[1] of households are aware of switchover (compared with 90 per cent.[1] nationally) and 82 per cent.[1] have digital television services already. Digital UK are continuing to work in the area, building on their communications work and the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (DSHS) has started to operate in the region.

[1] Ofcom/DUK DSO Tracker Q1 2008

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of progress in digital switchover. [212758]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: Overall, switchover in Copeland was successful, although we do realise that there are lessons to be learned.

This experience will help with work being done in the area surrounding the Selkirk transmitter which is the next place scheduled for switchover. Progress here is good.

99 per cent.[1] of households are aware of switchover (compared with 90 per cent[1] nationally) and 82 per cent.[1] have digital television services already. Digital UK are continuing to work in the area, building on their communications work and the Digital Switchover Help scheme (DSHS) has started to operate in the region.

[1] Ofcom/DUK DSO Tracker Q1 2008

Libraries: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries have been built in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210967]

Margaret Hodge: Information is not held centrally on the number of public libraries which have been built in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North-East or England in each year since 1997.

Public Library Statistics, an annual publication produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, provides information on the total number of libraries in South Tyneside, the North-East and England, but it does not publish information on the number of libraries in the parliamentary constituency of Jarrow. Copies of Public Library Statistics are available in the Library of the House.

Olympics 2012: Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding from the Big Lottery Fund will be allocated to the 2012 London Olympics. [213453]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Approximately £638.1 million held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund on the Big Lottery Fund's behalf will form part of the £1,085 million to be transferred to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund between the first quarter of the current financial year (2008-09) and the second quarter of 2012-13.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213725]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold management information on procurement of timber and timber products.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213726]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold management information on the procurement of timber and timber products. However it is the Department's policy to procure verifiable legal timber where possible.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what account the Higher Education Funding Council for England will take of areas of rapid population expansion in considering the location of 20 new universities. [214006]

Bill Rammell: We want to give everyone who has the talent the chance to go to university whether they are about to leave school or already in work. Students should have access to local provision offering flexible courses to suit their needs. We are therefore delighted by the interest that our new university challenge has generated. Any proposals for new university campuses or centres of HE will be assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England against the broad criteria we published in our new "University Challenge" criteria published in March which include "underpinning population growth strategies" as part of unlocking the potential of towns and people. HEFCE plan to publish a consultation document shortly.

Higher Education: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of *(a)* Chorley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [213646]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Chorley parliamentary constituency, Lancashire local authority and the North West Government office region—UK higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	*Chorley*	*Lancashire*	*North West[2]*
1997/98[3]	895	9,220	47,570
1998/99	1,010	10,350	44,795
1999/2000	1,115	11,060	44,820
2000/01	970	10,010	43,720
2001/02	1,145	11,605	48,020
2002/03	1,205	12,980	63,145
2003/04	1,045	12,510	68,525
2004/05[4]	1,150	13,290	69,455
2005/06	1,115	12,385	70,895
2006/07	1,050	11,950	65,800

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant mode of study. Figures cover entrants to both full-time and part-time undergraduate courses.

[2] Inconsistencies between figures in the time series for the North West Government office region are due to the inclusion/exclusion of Merseyside. In 1997/98, Merseyside was included in the North West. From 1998/99 to 2001/02, Merseyside was administratively classified as a separate region. From 2002/03 onwards, Merseyside was again included in the North West. Figures across the time series are not on a consistent basis, and as such, are not comparable.

[3] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.

[4] As a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year, a number of students were not returned as entrants although included in the total enrolments figure. However as a result, the increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 appears greater than in reality, particularly in respect of undergraduate entrants.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Innovation: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the use of innovation in business. [213191]

Ian Pearson: We recently published our White Paper, Innovation Nation, that included a number of measures aimed at increasing the level of innovation within business. These included:

> Increased support for business innovation through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) by bringing forward five new Innovation Platforms over the next three years and doubling the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships;
>
> Plans to reform the Small Business Research initiative;
>
> Provision of an innovation voucher to at least 1,000 businesses per year by 2010-11 to enable them to collaborate with a knowledge base institution with an overall aim to help those firms boost their innovation and profits; and
>
> Plans to pilot a revenue-based FE Specialisation and Innovation Fund to build the capacity of the FE Sector to support businesses to raise their innovation potential.

In addition, we have also published a Higher Level Skills Strategy to provide an overall framework for driving up the higher level skills that contribute to innovation in business.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Solicitor-General which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* the Attorney-General's office and *(b)* its agency. [212475]

The Solicitor-General: The trade unions which represent staff at the Attorney-General's Office and its agencies are the First Division Association (FDA) and Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS). The staff of the Serious Fraud Office are also represented by Prospect.

Genetics: Data Protection

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, on DNA profiles: disk inquiry, what disciplinary action has been taken against staff; against whom it has been taken; and what other management action and internal procedural changes have been put in place to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. [213817]

The Solicitor-General: Following the inquiry by Peter Lewis, chief executive of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) into the handling of the Dutch DNA disk, disciplinary proceedings have been instigated against one member of staff but have not yet concluded. It is not appropriate to name the individual concerned.

Immediate measures were put in place within the relevant part of the Crown Prosecution Service headquarters (CPS HQ) to ensure that all incoming post is dealt with securely, and acted on both expeditiously and appropriately.

The wider recommendations about the handling of such mutual exchange arrangements in future are being taken forward by the National Policing Improvement Agency. They should ensure that in future the appropriate recipients, not the CPS, receive and are properly notified of the transmission of such data.

The chief executive has also commissioned a wider review to look at operating processes and working practices across the whole of CPS HQ to identify areas where further improvements can be made.

Prosecutions: Foreigners

Mr. Love: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the case against Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, commonly known as Colonel Karuna, a Sri Lankan citizen; if she will request the CPS to review the decision not to prosecute in this case; and if she will make a statement. [213815]

The Solicitor-General: I have not had any discussions about this case with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). A file of evidence relating to a serious allegation was submitted to the CPS for advice and the case was reviewed in accordance with the code for Crown prosecutors. The reviewing Crown prosecutor advised the police that there was not a realistic prospect of a conviction against Colonel Karuna for any criminal offence based on the evidence that was submitted.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Cleethorpes constituency are in receipt of the carer's allowance. [212838]

Mrs. McGuire: As at November 2007, 870 people in Cleethorpes constituency were in receipt of the carer's allowance.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has estimated *(a)* the average length of telephone calls to the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the average length of time callers are kept in a queue before their calls are answered. [212072]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2008:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether his Department has estimated *(a)* the average length of telephone calls to the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the average length of time callers are kept in a queue before their calls are answered. [212072]

The Agency has shown significant and sustained improvement in client service under its Operational Improvement Plan. In the year ending March 2008, the Agency received 5,369,000 calls from clients and answered 98 per cent. of calls available to be answered, with an average waiting time of just twenty seconds. The average length of telephone call to the Agency over this period was three minutes 25 seconds.

In contrast, in the year to March 2005, the Agency answered only 84 per cent. of calls and the average waiting time was one minute 40 seconds.

Information on telephony performance is routinely published in Table 16 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library or online:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many outstanding cases the Child Support Agency has in Wales. [212700]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many outstanding cases the Child Support Agency has in Wales. [212700]

The information requested is routinely published in Supplementary Table 2a of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210987]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not readily available and can only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Since the introduction of its resource management system in 2005, the Department does not routinely publish its chart of accounts as the information is managed and controlled within the system.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208405]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table sets out the number and proportion of male, female, ethnic minority and disabled staff employed by the Department for Work and Pensions at March 2008. We are unable to provide the information on non-heterosexual staff as the Department only started monitoring this equality strand in April 2008 and we have not yet built up any meaningful data.

	Number	*Percentage*
Male	35,423	31.2
Female	77,971	68.8
Ethnic minority	9,840	10.1
Disabled	5,982	5.5
Not heterosexual	[1]	[1]

[1] Not known

Declaration of ethnicity and disabled status is voluntary. The proportions given are based on those individuals who have declared their status.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184378]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Paper

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its executive agencies spent on paper supplies in each of the last five years. [211145]

Mrs. McGuire: The information that is available is provided in the following table.

£ million

Type of product	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Core print (forms and leaflets)	24.0	21.9	18.3	25.1	22.1
Configurable print (letterheads, compliment slips and posters)	1.45	1.76	0.886	0.98	0.913
Secure print (girocheques and payable orders)	7.14	7.18	3.08	3.1	3.04
Cut paper (photocopier and printer paper etc)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.5	3.5
Totals	32.59	30.84	22.266	32.68	29.553

n/a = not available.

Expenditure figures on core, configurable and secure print include the cost of printing, storing and distributing the products and cannot be separately identified. Expenditure figures on cut paper for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

To reduce environmental impact, wherever technically possible, DWP uses recycled paper as standard and closely manages stocks to avoid wastage.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207479]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a 'Top', 'Higher' or 'Majority' rating under the annual performance and development system. The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service end of year bonuses were determined on an individual basis by the relevant Pay Committee.

A total of £36.61 million was paid in performance bonuses in the 2007-08 financial year broken down in the following tables:

Table 1: Department total

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
2007-08[1]	36.61	113,425

Table 2: Agency/business totals below SCS

Agency/business	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Number of recipients*
Child Support Agency	3.66	11,865
Corporate Centre	3.14	10,202
Disability and Carers Service	1.99	6,469
Jobcentre Plus	22.24	72,185
The Pensions Service	3.85	12,502
Total	34.88	113,223

Table 3: DWP SCS

Financial year	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Number of recipients*
2007-08[1]	1.73	202

[1] Performance awards from the year 2006/07 are paid in the financial year 2007-08.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208368]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's Performance and Development system is designed to help manage performance throughout the reporting year. Bonus payments are linked to an end of year assessment and paid to those who achieve a 'majority', 'higher' or 'top' marking in their appraisal. To attain these markings employees are expected to meet or exceed all of their performance objectives. The latest period for which information is available is for the 12 months ending March 2007.

A distribution by gender, ethnicity and disability of all 111,943 staff who received a performance bonus for the year ended 31 March 2007 is in the following table. Information about the percentage numbers of the different individual groups in relation to overall employees is also included.

Group	*Number receiving performance bonus*	*Percentage of performance bonus recipients (percentage)*
Female	77,847	69.5
Male	34,096	30.5
Ethnic minority	9,392	8.4
Ethnic majority	87,729	78.4
Not declared/recorded[1]	14,822	13.2

Group	*Number receiving performance bonus*	*Percentage of performance bonus recipients (percentage)*
Disabled	6,049	5.4
Not disabled	101,765	90.9
Not declared/recorded[1]	4,129	3.7

[1] Declaration of ethnicity and disability is voluntarily recorded on the Department's personnel system

For the 2006-07 performance year to which these figures relate we did not gather data on sexuality.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212474]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies recognise three trade unions as representing members of staff; the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), FDA and Prospect.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of how much a single recipient under the age of 35 years, who would have received an adult dependent addition under incapacity benefit, would receive in employment and support allowance each week if they were in receipt of the support component of contributory employment and support allowance, assuming the rates as set out in the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 come into force in October 2008; [211035]

(2) what estimate he has made of how much a couple, both under the age of 35 years, who are eligible for the support component of the contributory employment and support allowance,' would receive each week, assuming the rates as set out in the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 come into force in October 2008; [211036]

(3) what estimate he has made of how much a single recipient under the age of 35 years, who is eligible for the support component of the contributory employment and support allowance, would receive each week, assuming the rates as set out in the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 come into force in October 2008. [211037]

Mr. Timms: Employment and support allowance has a completely different structure to incapacity benefit. Contributory employment and support allowance is not payable in respect of couples. The employment and support regulations provide that single people in the support group will receive a rate of contributory benefit of £89.50 a week. If the claimant is single and has low or no other income they would receive an income-related top up taking their benefit of £102.10 a week, through the proposed passport to the enhanced disability premium.

If a contributory claimant has a partner and has low or no other income, they can also receive an income-related top up; including an automatic passport to the enhanced disability premium, guaranteeing couples where the claimant only is claiming employment and support allowance and is in the support group a minimum income of £142.10 a week. If both members of a couple are entitled to contributory employment and support allowance and in the support group, they would each receive £89.50 a week, making a total of £179 a week.

Incapacity Benefit: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people receiving incapacity benefit in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency, *(c)* North East Lincolnshire and *(d)* North Lincolnshire. [212837]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the table.

	Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants: November 2007
Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency	3,440
Great Grimsby parliamentary constituency	4,650
North East Lincolnshire local authority	7,220
North Lincolnshire local authority	6,650

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are also published on the NOMIS website at www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Lorries: Driving Instruction

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial help is made available by his Department for unemployed people who wish to undertake HGV training. [212019]

Mr. Timms: Support for work-focused training can depend both on locality and a customer's individual circumstances. Jobcentre Plus makes every effort to offer a flexible system of job seeking that is responsive to both the needs of the individual and the needs of the local labour market.

Employment training funded by the Department is generally limited to new deal programmes. The courses available are decided by each Jobcentre Plus district and will be not be the same around the country. Training allowances are payable to job seekers participating in full-time training in the options stage of new deal for young people or the intensive activity period stage of new deal 25 plus.

For Jobcentre Plus customers who are not eligible for the new deal, or in districts where Heavy Goods Vehicle training is not supported, Career Development Loans are available to help people overcome financial barriers to training.

Under the flexible new deal, which will replace existing provision for jobseeker's allowance customers from next year, providers will be free to offer any support they deem appropriate for a customer if they decide it would help the customer enter and sustain employment.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to announce who will administer the successor product to the Post Office Card Account. [212211]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine (Sir Robert Smith) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 428-29W.

Sick Leave: Mentally Ill

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people took leave from work due to mental illness in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* type of illness. [208067]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of people who took leave from work due to mental illness.

Social Security Benefits: Elderly

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 195735, on pensioners eligible for means-tested benefits, tabled by the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey on 17 March 2008. [207162]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I replied to the hon. Member on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 739W

Social Security Benefits: EU Action

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the effect of the European Court of Justice ruling C299/05, on special non-contributory benefits. [212357]

Mrs. McGuire: As a result of the European Court of Justice decision C299/05, the special non-contributory benefits disability living allowance (care component), attendance allowance and carer's allowance were classified as sickness benefits under European law. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 83-84WS.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210537]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has adopted a Welsh language scheme approved by the Welsh Language Board on 13 July 2004 and is committed to treating the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality when providing a service to the public in Wales. The scheme covers both the main departmental businesses and all sponsored bodies that do not have separate schemes of their own. The main DWP Scheme is currently being formally reviewed at the request of the Welsh Language Board.

My officials regularly and continuously monitor the use made of the Welsh language services we provide for the public in Wales. They also ensure that suitable Welsh language provision is built in to all new services and benefits being developed by the Department. In addition, each year officials in the main customer-facing businesses in Wales carry out voluntary staff audits to confirm that there are sufficient members of staff who are able to conduct business in Welsh.

The Welsh Language Board is satisfied that my Department is fully meeting the commitments set out in the scheme.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211758]

Mr. Thomas: This Department's published "Annual Report and Accounts" contains information on its tangible fixed assets, which includes an additions category entitled "furniture, fixtures and fittings".

These accounts can be found on the BERR website at the following address:

www.berr.gov.uk.

The following years accounts are on the website:

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 (HC 584)—Chapter 5—Note 14

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 (HC 1461)—Note 14

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2004-05 (HC 612)—Note 13

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2003-04 (HC 26)—Note 14

The 2007-08 Annual Report is due to be published in Mid-July 2008

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 23 June 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Services in respect of your question (2007/3018) how many (a) chairs, (b) desks and (c) other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case.

Please see table below for the figures of the last five years 2003-2007.

	Desks		*Chairs*		*Others (storage)*	
	Numbers	*£*	*Numbers*	*£*	*Numbers*	*£*
2003	316	76,100	181	37,700	334	88,600
2004	334	170,700	508	81,600	136	40,400
2005	471	233,800	711	141,300	462	113,700

	Desks		*Chairs*		*Others (storage)*	
	Numbers	*£*	*Numbers*	*£*	*Numbers*	*£*
2006	589	226,600	510	107,600	454	126,600
2007	578	230,900	727	199,600	216	60,900

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 23 June 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has purchased chairs, desks and other office furnishings in each of the last five years as follows:

	Chairs		*Desks*		*Other furnishings*
Financial year	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Cost (£)*
2003-04	116	11,503	218	37,703	81,549
2004-05	502	56,569	416	90,506	401,686
2005-06	141	12,000	62	13,488	58,511
2006-07	24	1,997	0	0	35,409
2007-08	75	6,257	21	4,422	30,875

Other furnishings include costs for cupboards, filing cabinets, storage units, desk pedestals and meeting tables. Numbers are not available.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies procures each week; and at what cost. [211002]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has only one subscription for the *Morning Star*: this is ordered by the Employment Relations policy team. The cover price is 60p and the subscription merits a 15 per cent. discount.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 23 June 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/2953) how many copies of the Morning Star publication his Department and its agency subscribes to each week; and at what cost.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform had no subscriptions to The Morning Star publication in the last 5 years.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 23 June 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House does not subscribe to the Morning Star publication.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the number of post offices that are likely to close if the contract for the successor product to the Post Office Card Account does not go to Post Office Ltd.; [212233]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to Post Office Ltd. of not securing the contract for the successor product to the Post Office card account. [212234]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently managing a competitive tender process for the successor product to the Post Office Card Account and an announcement is expected later in the year. A number of bids are being considered, including one submitted by Post Office Ltd. In advance of the procurement decision being announced, it would not be appropriate for the Government to speculate on the consequences of any individual bidder failing to secure the contract.

The Government remains committed to allowing people to access their pension and benefit in cash at the post office if they choose to do so, and there are around 25 accounts which make that possible still generating income for Post Office Ltd. and sub-postmasters.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what environmental impact assessment has been made of the proposed closure of Hinton St George post office in Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [212248]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the public transport connections to other post offices in the area around Hinton St George post office, Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [212250]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what effect on annual costs is forecast to arise from the proposed closure of the post office at *(a)* 173 Church Road, Thundersley and *(b)* Daverrell Road, Canvey Island. [212268]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of post offices proposed for closure in a proposed local area plan have been kept open following the local public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [212269]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated final number of post office closures is. [212794]

Mr. McFadden: Government funding will support strategic changes to the post office network with up to 2,500 compensated closures nationally within a framework of minimum access criteria. These closures are being offset by the introduction of 500 new outreach services.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices considered for closure will not be closed; and how many of these have been substituted with another post office to be closed. [212795]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what annual cash savings the Post Office expects to make from the closure of post offices in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District. [213332]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director, of POL to reply direct to my right hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Planning and Development: Electronic Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who is responsible for funding the *(a)* e-government regional partnerships and *(b)* regional equality and diversity partnerships. [212666]

Mr. McFadden: The regional e-government partnerships were self-organised with the help of £300,000 each up to March 2006 of seed-corn funding from ODPM as part of the Local e-Government Programme, and supported by regional LGA groups. Since March 2006 they have been self-funded within each region by public and private members via a subscription- and events-based model.

The regional equality and diversity partnerships have been formed in a number of regions and are funded by a range of organisations, both public (including regional development agencies, regional assemblies, local authorities and the Big Lottery Fund) and private (including business, trade associations and trade unions).

Tourism: Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the regional development agencies spent on tourism in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [210493]

Mr. McFadden: The following figures refer to spending by RDAs on core tourism and leisure objectives. RDAs have also spent money on activities related to tourism initiatives such as general marketing of a region; specific regeneration projects; or human resource development. The cost of these related activities are not included in the table.

Expenditure on tourism

					£ million
RDAs	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM[1]	0	2.2	2.3	3.8	3.3
EEDA[2]	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.8
EMDA	1.9	3	4.5	5.3	4.7
LDA[3]	13.3	23.7	23.8	23.9	29.4
NWDA	2.7	4	5	6.1	8.9
ONE[4]	0.75	3.3	7.1	10.8	10.6
SEEDA	1.2	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.2
SWRDA	0.8	1.5	3	3.2	2.6
YF	0.6	1.7	2.2	3.9	6

[1] AWM had no specific budget for tourism in 2003-04 over and above AWM's marketing activities for general inward investment into the region.

[2] EEDA's business model for tourism changed significantly over the this three-year period, resulting in the increased level of investment for 2006-07.

[3] LDA figures include core funding to Visit London. London is recognised by the UK tourism industry as supporting the success of other UK destinations through its gateway role and Visit London plays an important delivery role in promoting London as a gateway to the rest of the UK.

[4] ONE took over the delivery of tourism in 2004-05, which is delivered from within the agency.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders were issued in Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last five years. [212836]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 280 ABCs have been made in Lincolnshire since October 2003.

Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not collected centrally at parliamentary constituency area level. The number of ASBOs issued in the Lincolnshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area from January 2002 to December 2006 (latest available) is shown in the following table. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders ISSUED at all courts in the Lincolnshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 2002-06

	Lincolnshire
2002	2
2003	7
2004	12
2005	20
2006	17
Total	58

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Prepared by CJEAU, Ministry of Justice.

Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 17, *(c)* 18 to 20 and *(d)* 21 years and over were (i) arrested, (ii) charged and (iii) convicted for (A) violent and (B) non-violent offences in each of the last five years. [212374]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for violent and non-violent offences in England and Wales, broken down by age group for the years 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information on numbers proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice holds information on convictions and prosecutions data for persons aged under 10 who are under the age of liability.

These data are on the principal offence basis: the figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The available information held by the Ministry of Justice on number of persons arrested is given in the other table from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (latest available). There is no link from these centrally reported data to any subsequent outcome.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to violent, and non-violent offences in England and Wales, by age group, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against					*Found guilty*				
Age group	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
10-17										
Violent offences	20,218	18,618	18,217	18,123	18,457	10,235	9,668	10,457	11,061	11,713
Non-violent offences	126,350	122,172	118,445	113,608	107,732	84,311	82,873	85,733	85,096	81,976
18-20										
Violent offences	16,161	15,798	14,604	14,433	14,653	8,429	8,129	8,520	8,821	9,449
Non-violent offences	204,813	205,968	191,682	174,739	165,256	151,361	154,359	148,231	137,806	133,612
21 and over										
Violent offences	66,813	68,049	60,914	57,853	53,953	31,139	31,897	32,438	32,938	33,708
Non-violent offences	1,477,315	1,556,205	1,603,373	1,502,837	1,408,127	1,126,727	1,194,295	1,252,609	1,199,530	1,143,315
All ages										
Violent offences	103,192	102,465	93,735	90,409	87,063	49,803	49,694	51,415	52,820	54,870
Non-violent offences	1,808,478	1,884,345	1,913,500	1,791,184	1,681,115	1,362,399	1,431,527	1,486,573	1,422,432	1,358,903

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data includes the following offence types:
Violent offences:
Violence against the person
Sexual Offences
Robbery
Non-violent offences:
Burglary
Theft and handling stolen goods
Fraud and forgery
Criminal damage
Drug offences
Other indictable offences
Indictable motoring offences
Summary offences (excluding motoring)
Summary motoring offences.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Sources:
Court proceedings data held by CJEAU
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice

Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group and type of offence[1], 2001-02 to 2005-06, England and Wales

Rounded

Notifiable offence group	*Aged under 10*	*Aged 10-17*	*Aged 18-20*	*Aged 21 and over*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
2001-02						
Violent offences	100	70,500	47,900	201,400	900	320,500
Other offences	400	243,800	160,300	544,200	2,500	951,400
Total	500	314,200	208,100	745,700	3,400	1,271,900
2002-03						
Violent offences	100	70,600	50,800	226,600	900	348,700
Other offences	300	229,000	156,300	576,500	2,200	964,400
Total	500	299,500	207,000	803,200	2,900	1,313,100
2003-04						
Violent offences	100	83,000	56,900	256,000	900	396,800
Other offences	500	230,300	145,200	555,600	1,900	933,800
Total	700	313,200	202,200	811,700	2,700	1,330,400
2004-05[2]						
Violent offences	200	96,700	66,800	294,000	900	458,400
Other offences	500	236,100	137,000	519,500	1,900	894,900
Total	800	332,800	203,700	813,400	2,800	1,353,400
2005-06						
Violent offences	200	108,500	74,500	331,800	800	515,800
Other offences	500	239,900	140,300	531,100	2,000	914,000
Total	800	348,500	214,700	863,100	2,700	1,429,800

[1] Violent offences includes the offence categories of violence against the person; sexual offences; robbery offences. Other offences includes the offence categories of burglary; theft and handling stolen goods; fraud and forgery; criminal damage; drug offences; other offences.

[2] Figures updated since publication of 2004-05 bulletin.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Crime: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made in Bournemouth in each of the last five years; and how many led to a conviction. [212466]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* The arrests collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Data collected centrally are not available below police force area level nor can they be linked to subsequent convictions or other outcomes.

Crimes of Violence: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes there were per head of population in Essex in each of the last five years. [213010]

Mr. Coaker: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with recorded crime statistics and figures are now provided for violence against the person.

Statistics giving the number of offences of violence against the person per 1,000 population in Essex are given in the following table.

Number of offences of violence against the person per 1,000 population in Essex

	Rate per 1,000 population
2002-03	14
2003-04	16
2004-05	16
2005-06	15
2006-07	14

Genetics: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 16 years were registered on the national DNA database at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [186906]

Meg Hillier: As at 31 December 2007, there were 147,367 subject profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) from persons currently aged under 16 submitted by forces in England and Wales. The estimated number of individuals represented on the NDNAD is lower than the number of subject profiles as some profiles are replicates. The subject profile replication rate is currently calculated as 13.3 per cent. The estimated number of individuals aged under 16 is, therefore, 127,767.

Police: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect her decision not to backdate the police pay award will have on her Department's expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [211525]

Jacqui Smith: It will have no effect on Home Office expenditure. Funding for the police service for the three years beginning 2008-09 was announced on 6 December 2007. The staging of the 2007-08 police pay award means that around £40 million is realised for police authorities to invest in the provision of policing services.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances a person may be charged with a racially aggravated offence against a person of the same ethnicity. [211106]

Mr. Coaker: The Association of Chief Police Officers' definition of hate crime is very broad and inclusive as follows:

> A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.

It is therefore possible that the ethnicity of the offender could be the same as the victim's—for example, if a person in a mixed-race relationship was attacked by someone of the same ethnicity who disagreed with that type of relationship.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1519-20W, on sexual offences, whether there is a requirement for a person convicted of a sexual offence overseas, who would be included on the Sex Offender Register if the offence had been committed in the UK, to declare the conviction when seeking to visit or remain in the UK. [211163]

Mr. Coaker: A person convicted of a sexual offence overseas is not generally required to declare the conviction when seeking to visit or remain in the UK. However, if the person needs a visa to enter the UK, he is required to disclose on his visa application form whether he has ever been convicted of any criminal offence.

We are aware that obtaining such information in relation to sex offenders is vital in ensuring that notification orders are used for the purposes for which they were intended, and that any other measures appropriate to protect the public can be taken. To try and ensure this we are actively engaged with a number of countries to try and develop ways of obtaining information on their convicted sex offenders and have already established such an arrangement with the Republic of Ireland.

Strip Clubs: Licensing

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to give increased powers to local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs, in particular by *(a)* extending the category of sex encounter establishments across England and Wales and *(b)* removing the exemption for establishments that possess a premises licence. [212217]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are consulting with local authorities on any concerns they have which they feel cannot be addressed by existing controls, including the Licensing Act 2003 and whether we need to do more to protect local communities. We do recognise that people do not necessarily want lap-dancing establishments in their neighbourhoods and we want to ensure local authorities have the powers to reflect the views of local people when considering applications. We will therefore consider whether or not lap-dancing clubs should fall under the category of sex encounter establishments under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and legislate if this is necessary.

Truancy

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers who discover a child truanting from school may take; and if she will make a statement. [213093]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Under Section 16 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), police officers may, if authorised to do so by a chief police officer, take excluded pupils who are in a public place during normal school hours and children who they believe are out of school without lawful authority to a designated place established by the local authority or to the school. This power is often used during a "School Attendance and Exclusions Sweep".

This Department and the Home Department have issued joint guidance to local authorities and police services on the use of the power to remove pupils from public places and the organisation of exercises using it called "School Attendance and Exclusions Sweeps: Effective Practice and Advice" which explains the law and gives examples of practice that is in use.

Under Section 444A of the Education Act 1996 (as amended) police officers may issue fixed penalty notices to parents who fail to secure their child's regular attendance, if they have been authorised to do so by the local code of practice on the use of penalty notices.

Police community support officers may also use the powers to remove pupils from a public place and to issue fixed penalty notices, if they have been designated to do so under the Police Reform Act 2002 by the chief officer of the force concerned.

The Department has not collected data on the number of "school attendance and exclusions sweeps" conducted by local authorities since autumn 2006, when we ceased co-ordinating national sweeps-allowing authorities to run sweeps according to local need. I have put the data we collected as part of the nationally co-ordinated exercises in the Library of the House.

Analyses of national data show that there is a correlation between absence from school and pupils' levels of achievement, with average performance of pupils in schools with lower levels of absence better than pupils in schools with higher levels of absence. Data for 2006-07 showed that in secondary schools with an average of 12 days absence per pupil 36 per cent. of pupils or more obtained five of more GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and maths compared with 91 per cent. of pupils in secondary schools with an average of less than six days absence per pupil In primary schools with an average of more than 12 days absence per pupil 52 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or above in English and mathematics compared with 84 per cent. of pupils in schools where the average absence was less than six days per pupil.

Number of school attendance and exclusion sweeps organised by local authorities as part of the nationally co-ordinated exercises

	Number of Sweeps				
Local Authority	*Spring 2003*	*2003-4 school year*	*2004-5 school year*	*2005-6 school year*	*Autumn 2006*
Barking and Dagenham	3	11	6	6	3
Barnet	8	0	13	5	2
Barnsley	24	52	85	37	18
Bath and NE Somerset	7	14	7	0	0
Bedfordshire	14	28	42	38	16
Bexley	1	7	29	12	4
Birmingham	10	58	22	30	20
Blackburn	14	10	16	20	7
Blackpool	5	6	9	9	4
Bolton	2	3	4	1	2
Bournemouth	3	4	8	10	7
Bracknell Forest	12	13	9	11	8
Bradford	7	15	14	16	0
Brent	9	0	3	8	3
Brighton and Hove	2	3	2	4	6
Bristol City	38	115	5	6	5
Bromley	4	8	18	28	13
Buckinghamshire	0	6	8	12	10
Bury	13	112	70	46	10
Calderdale	5	20	20	12	4
Cambridgeshire	0	20	29	21	5
Camden	3	5	20	17	8
Cheshire	1	5	23	17	10
City of Derby	32	94	74	62	0
City of Nottingham	25	38	32	33	8
City of Westminster	5	8	7	8	3
Cornwall	2	6	9	9	2
Corporation of London	0	3	4	4	0
Coventry	0	27	33	24	0
Croydon	4	4	10	9	2
Cumbria	0	4	8	4	2
Darlington	2	3	4	5	1
Derbyshire	4	29	25	26	0
Devon	0	5	11	12	5
Doncaster	4	11	24	0	11
Dorset	3	0	5	4	11
Dudley	0	18	7	9	4
Durham	18	42	39	47	21
Ealing	6	15	21	22	10
East Riding	4	10	21	0	0
East Sussex NB UGI	3	6	14	25	25
Enfield	5	8	5	2	5
Essex	6	12	26	29	14
Gateshead	11	24	21	20	14
Gloucestershire	6	10	12	16	8
Greenwich	9	10	15	10	5
Hackney	5	6	20	15	18
Halton	8	4	10	12	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	18	33	30	14
Hampshire	12	18	8	11	5
Haringey	8	17	16	27	10
Harrow	11	20	19	14	3
Hartlepool	4	9	18	12	9
Havering	3	0	2	6	4
Herefordshire	3	6	2	0	1
Hertfordshire	23	3	17	13	11
Hillingdon	16	29	38	38	17
Hounslow	8	12	18	64	21
Isle of Wight	9	17	8	4	4
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	10	18	25	20	7
Kensington and Chelsea	8	16	7	5	1
Kent	15	37	38	42	20
Kingston upon Hull	14	11	8	0	5
Kingston-upon-Thames	3	6	5	14	4
Kirklees	3	6	3	2	5
Knowsley	0	0	16	9	3
Lambeth	5	9	10	0	0
Lancashire	0	46	30	34	14
Leeds	4	35	44	37	5
Leicester City	2	4	5	8	3
Leicestershire	2	10	14	11	4
Lewisham	9	14	10	9	5
Lincolnshire	8	17	17	13	8
Liverpool	22	94	89	97	36
Luton	0	2	3	12	8
Manchester	6	14	10	19	20
Medway	0	4	3	11	3
Merton	2	9	8	11	5
Middlesbrough	9	21	25	20	10
Milton Keynes	6	18	10	11	2
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	15	41	36	32	8
Newham	0	30	14	10	4
Norfolk	0	2	15	7	0
North East Lincolnshire	5	8	7	4	2
North Lincolnshire	9	48	29	15	15
North Somerset	9	12	18	9	2
North Tyneside	5	15	5	3	0
North Yorkshire	8	8	26	18	5
Northamptonshire	8	5	8	6	9
Northumberland	9	17	24	18	10
Nottinghamshire	8	17	14	17	12
Oldham	4	8	9	7	5
Oxfordshire	21	16	10	6	3
Peterborough	1	5	5	0	0
Plymouth	3	6	3	0	3
Poole	1	6	9	4	0
Portsmouth	1	2	2	2	1
Reading	3	6	6	11	5
Redbridge	3	7	6	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland	5	6	8	9	8
Richmond-upon-Thames	4	8	6	7	2

Number of school attendance and exclusion sweeps organised by local authorities as part of the nationally co-ordinated exercises

	Number of Sweeps				
Local Authority	*Spring 2003*	*2003-4 school year*	*2004-5 school year*	*2005-6 school year*	*Autumn 2006*
Rochdale	0	10	9	7	2
Rotherham	12	18	30	23	14
Rutland	0	1	2	4	2
Salford	0	11	10	7	5
Sandwell	21	78	46	71	27
Sefton	10	66	46	66	30
Sheffield	10	10	10	0	0
Shropshire	4	18	21	18	12
Slough	8	9	6	3	0
Solihull	5	0	26	23	6
Somerset	6	7	8	5	3
South Gloucestershire	5	5	7	7	10
South Tyneside	0	7	8	6	0
Southampton	2	8	20	3	7
Southend	3	3	5	2	0
Southwark	0	0	2	17	11
St. Helens	18	10	9	10	5
Staffordshire	27	55	27	32	22
Stockport	10	30	26	20	20
Stockton-on-Tees	2	5	5	6	0
Stoke-on-Trent	6	8	5	33	0
Suffolk	13	9	15	14	7
Sunderland	5	10	17	19	14
Surrey	9	19	18	14	9
Sutton	6	9	15	17	2
Swindon	4	1	8	10	7
Tameside	2	7	9	24	0
The Wrekin	6	23	20	32	11
Thurrock	5	10	10	3	29
Torbay	4	4	4	4	0
Tower Hamlets	3	12	38	43	30
Trafford	6	5	0	0	0
Wakefield	3	10	6	8	4
Walsall	—	11	12	6	5
Waltham Forest	3	12	12	11	6
Wandsworth	6	7	3	6	2
Warrington	10	19	20	12	3
Warwickshire	0	4	4	4	3
West Berkshire	4	9	8	6	3
West Sussex	1	1	2	2	7
Wigan	2	4	6	12	16
Wiltshire	5	3	2	4	4
Windsor and Maidenhead	4	10	10	5	0
Wirral	4	13	16	15	7
Wokingham	0	2	1	a	0
Wolverhampton	6	12	11	11	6
York	4	47	22	25	23

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

32 Smith Square: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the rateable value of the offices at 32 Smith Square, Westminster was last assessed by the Valuation Office Agency. [212789]

John Healey: The rateable value of the offices at 32 Smith Square was last assessed by the Valuation Officer when he compiled the 2005 rating list for the City of Westminster. This came into force on 1 April 2005. Full details of the assessment history of all hereditaments are available on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 405W, on community relations: religion, when she expects to announce the independent review to examine with communities how to build the capacity of Islamic seminaries; who she expects to carry out the review; when she plans that it should report; what she estimates it will cost; and if she will make a statement. [212964]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has been developing the terms of reference for the review in close consultation with community partners, academics and practitioners. The Secretary of State expects to be in a position to announce full details of the review shortly.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 679W, on community relations: religion, what funds have been allocated to the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group for the three years from 2008-09. [212965]

Mr. Dhanda: The following funds have been allocated to the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) for the three years from 2008-09.

		£
	Running costs	*Projects*
2008-09	40,000	150,000
2009-10	40,000	200,000
2010-11	40,000	200,000

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's research report on council tax rebilling costs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister reference 050324. [212727]

John Healey: I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the research report 'Council Tax Rebilling Costs', which was completed in March 2005 and has been available publicly since then.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on council tax: valuation, on what date the Board met in each month from March 2003 to November 2005. [213589]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's Programme Board for the postponed council tax revaluation in England met on:

31 March 2003
29 April 2003
26 June 2003
30 July 2003
28 August 2003
23 September 2003
21 October 2003
20 November 2003
11 December 2003
20 January 2004
17 February 2004
23 March 2004
6 May 2004
24 May 2004
22 June 2004
20 July 2004
24 August 2004
21 September 2004
19 October 2004
23 November 2004
21 December 2004
18 January 2005
16 February 2005
29 March 2005
20 April 2005
25 May 2005
22 June 2005
19 July 2005
20 September 2005
18 October 2005
22 November 2005

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government over what period her Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213212]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department depreciates its assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual, published by HM Treasury.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how frequently her Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213392]

Mr. Dhanda: Asset values of land and buildings are restated, in the Department's resource accounts, at current value using professional valuations (in accordance with Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors guidance and Financial Reporting Standard 15) every five years and values are adjusted using the appropriate indices in intervening years. The resource accounts provide values at each 31 March, the Department's financial year-end.

Departmental Leave

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many privilege day holidays civil servants in her Department receive; and on what days they fall in 2008. [212678]

Mr. Dhanda: Staff in Communities and Local Government are entitled to two and a half days privilege leave. For 2008 this will be as follows:

Maundy Thursday—20 March 2008 afternoon only;

The Queen's birthday—which can be taken on either 23 May 2008 or 27 May 2008;

and

an additional day at Christmas—24 December 2008.

Staff working part-time have their privilege leave calculated on a pro rata basis.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, which former special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused permission by her Department or its predecessor to take up an outside appointment on leaving their post since May 2005. [210917]

Mr. Dhanda: Personal information about the applications submitted by special advisers, and other Crown servants, is made public only in accordance with the principles and practices followed in the operation of the Business Appointment Rules. This information, which includes details of the appointments of the most senior staff and statistical data about cases at the more junior levels, is published on the website of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (www.acoba.gov.uk) and in its reports.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of staff in her Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [213295]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government made bonus payments to 495 staff under the terms of pay settlements for 2007. This represents 22 per cent. of the total work force as at 1 April 2007. This does not include staff in Government offices. For staff below the senior civil service, bonuses are paid to staff who exceed against their objectives for the year. For the senior civil service, bonuses are non-consolidated, non-pensionable cash payments that reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The total amount paid as bonus payments under these arrangements in 2007 was £1,018,350 and the largest single payment was £16,270. The Department has a special bonus scheme to reward exceptional performance over a limited period, in particularly demanding tasks or situations. The maximum bonus under these arrangements is £600 but records are not available to show the number of payments made under this scheme in 2007-08. The Department has not yet reached agreement on the level and award of bonus payments for 2008.

For the period before that, I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1523W, and on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 456W.

For the total amount of bonuses paid in the last five years, I also refer the hon. Member to my replies to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W, and 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 543 W.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W, on departmental procurement, what the minimum expenditure is that has to be authorised by a purchase order and prior approval by a budget holder. [212687]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's policy is that no purchase order will be raised without authorisation by a delegated budget holder. Additionally the Department's finance system enforces a further separate approval process to safeguard improper use funds.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W, on departmental public participation, what the topic of the housing-related research commissioned from Dorset County Council was. [212719]

Mr. Dhanda: In the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W, we had added the following information.

Dorset county council—Housing related research 8,800.00

This was added in error as the money for Dorset county council was not related to housing related research. The payment related to consultancy support for a business improvement package website. We are taking steps to rectify the answer.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its Executive agencies. [210879]

Mr. Dhanda: Five departmental passes have been reported as stolen by staff in the HQ buildings for Communities and Local Government during the period June 2006 to June 2008.

A further 122 replacement departmental passes have been issued in the same period. It is not possible to say how many of the passes were lost other than by theft. Security passes may need to be replaced for a variety of reasons including loss, theft, damage, or change of name and the Department does not record the reasons for the replacement of a departmental pass.

Identity cards are used in very limited areas within the Department and none have been reported lost or stolen in the period.

The Government office for the West Midlands re-issued all of their passes on 1 January 2008. No records have been retained about losses up to that date. Seven passes have been replaced in 2008 to date. A further 113 passes have been replaced and two reported as stolen in the remainder of the GO network. Although CLG has overall responsibility for these, the Government offices carry out functions on behalf of ten Departments.

In addition, a further 69 passes have been reported lost by the Executive agencies.

None of the passes for the HQ buildings, GOs or agencies have the name or address of the building, department or organisation to which it refers, on them. The Department assesses all cases of lost or stolen passes to determine any increased vulnerability to security. Additional controls and procedures are introduced as necessary.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which trade unions represent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212488]

Mr. Dhanda: The following trade unions are officially recognised by the Department and its agencies to represent members of staff: Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDA), Prospect and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS).

In addition, the Fire Service College, an Executive agency of the Department, also recognises the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union (GMB) and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

Employment: Young People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures she has in place to determine what the level of youth employment is in each region of England. [208995]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what measures are in place to determine the level of youth unemployment in each region of England. I am replying in her absence. (208995)

The Office for National Statistics publishes estimates of unemployment by age and region on line at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

The source of the information is the Annual Population Survey which collects information on around 350,000 people in a 12 month period. The historical estimates are currently in the process of being updated to reflect the latest estimates of the population.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Housing: Thermal Insulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what cost/benefit analysis she has carried out into the effectiveness of cavity wall insulation, with particular reference to its effect on greenhouse gas emissions; [212603]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of houses which are not suitable for cavity wall insulation. [212604]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Prior to drawing up the policy, DEFRA and the Energy Saving Trust commissioned a series of research projects, including in situ measurement of the heat loss through insulated cavities, to measure and understand the effectiveness of cavity wall insulation. Measurements were taken in a variety of geographical locations. The work was summarised in a report by Glasgow Caledonian University and published in 2006 on the DEFRA website. The report on the final stage of the in situ monitoring project is to be published shortly.

Our final estimate of the annual carbon savings from insulating the cavity of a three bedroom semi-detached house is 634 $kgC0_2$ per year. The financial savings, based on BERR fuel prices for the domestic sector in June 2007, are estimated at £78 per year (after deducting increased comfort). Given that the cost of insulation to the householder (i.e. after the energy suppliers' subsidy) is estimated to be around £200, cavity wall insulation remains a highly cost effective measure. In terms of carbon savings, it is the single most important measure in CERT.

The Explanatory Memorandum for CERT estimates that there are around 1.2 million homes in Great Britain for which the cavities are technically unfillable, or difficult to fill at present.

INTERREG Programme: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the POLYNET study into Mega-City Regions has received from *(a)* her Department or its predecessor and *(b)* the INTERREG programme. [213539]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2003 Communities and Local Government's predecessor department awarded the POLYNET project £151,450 in matchfunding to assist in developing their bid for North West Europe Interreg IIIB programme funding.

POLYNET, led by the UK's Institute of Community Studies (now the Young Foundation), subsequently received a €1,144,114 ERDF grant from the Interreg IIIB North West Europe programme.

Local Area Agreements

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the full text of each *(a)* round 2 and *(b)* round 3 local area agreement. [212738]

John Healey: The full text of round 2 and round 3 local area agreements were placed in the Library in April 2006 and April 2007 respectively. The agreements are also on the Improvement and Development Agency website at:

www.idea.gov.uk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have signed a *(a)* round 1, *(b)* round 2 and *(c)* round 3 local area agreement with (i) her Department and (ii) the relevant Government Office for the region. [212743]

John Healey: Rounds 1, 2 and 3 local area agreements (LAAs) were signed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and her predecessors on behalf of Government. 21 LAAs were signed in round 1, 66 in round 2 and 62 in round 3.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have signed a *(a)* first generation and *(b)* second generation local public service agreement with (i) her Department and (ii) the relevant Government Office for the region. [212744]

John Healey: First and second generation local public service agreements were signed on behalf of Government by a Minister of State at CLG (or its predecessors) and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. They were signed on behalf of the local authorities by the leader and chief executive. Round one local public service agreements were signed with 144 upper tier and unitary local authorities. Second generation local public service agreements have been signed with 57 areas.

Local Government Finance: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what activities local authorities may spend income accrued from fixed penalty notices; whether this is affected by each local authority's comprehensive performance assessment; and whether this system will change under the comprehensive area assessment procedure. [212653]

John Healey: The extent to which authorities may retain income from fixed penalty notices, and the purposes to which that income should be put, will depend on the statute and rules relevant to each fixed penalty notice (FPN). Income from FPNs must be returned to the Exchequer through the Consolidated Fund, unless legislation under which each FPN is issued makes provision for local authorities to retain that income. The introduction of the comprehensive area assessment will not change the rules under which fixed penalty notices operate.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central Government grant support was provided to each London borough per capita in each of the last 10 years. [212398]

John Healey: The information requested on the central Government grant provided to each London borough per capita in each of the last 10 years is listed in the following table. Aggregate information for England is published in editions of "Local Government Financial Statistics" and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns and Office for National Statistics' (ONS) mid-year population estimates.

Central Government grant provided to each London borough per capita from 1997-98 to 2006-07

£ per head

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	750	848	944	1,030	1,094	1,162	1,344	1,351	1,393	1,729
Barnet	595	641	658	706	752	756	837	873	919	956
Bexley	590	640	691	740	797	837	912	945	1,014	1,068
Brent	843	878	911	945	999	1,028	1,212	1,289	1,368	1,447
Bromley	508	545	579	623	671	674	750	780	829	863
Camden	1,043	1,088	1,100	1,116	1,174	1,207	1,270	1,331	1,384	1,402
City of London	17,077	14,869	13,209	12,661	12,570	13,573	15,810	15,968	16,364	16,265
Croydon	601	642	672	729	796	860	962	1,015	1,091	1,152
Ealing	697	741	767	816	874	903	991	1,025	1,133	1,115
Enfield	693	751	806	873	952	980	1,094	1,148	1,179	1,391
Greenwich	931	976	1,063	1,148	1,215	1,263	1,448	1,535	1,700	1,726
Hackney	1,281	1,265	1,299	1,342	1,391	1,624	1,789	1,900	2,033	2,125
Hammersmith and Fulham	937	957	990	1,028	1,068	1,122	1,263	1,321	1,407	1,393
Haringey	922	1,004	1,084	1,232	1,339	1,350	1,510	1,548	1,591	1,626
Harrow	562	605	630	672	720	759	866	911	949	986
Havering	534	577	608	658	715	741	811	855	896	974
Hillingdon	603	642	709	699	854	872	954	1,017	1,152	1,137
Hounslow	746	772	819	863	919	953	1,050	1,102	1,164	1,209
Islington	1,082	1,133	1,280	1,369	1,433	1,510	1,710	1,729	1,737	1,902
Kensington and Chelsea	830	844	864	882	876	925	1,045	1,034	1,044	1,103
Kingston upon Thames	510	525	548	589	632	646	728	759	794	833
Lambeth	994	1,009	1,066	1,100	1,154	1,250	1,378	1,443	1,474	1,584
Lewisham	902	949	996	1,079	1,115	1,159	1,409	1,562	1,528	1,559
Merton	546	588	629	656	674	690	769	844	904	955
Newham	1,113	1,218	1,283	1,367	1,454	1,544	1,766	1,819	2,040	2,054
Redbridge	651	709	769	845	909	873	955	1,011	1,065	1,116
Richmond upon Thames	418	446	474	547	575	609	671	672	688	728
Southwark	997	1,043	1,127	1,242	1,270	1,370	1,672	1,763	1,896	1,781
Sutton	564	596	640	687	732	747	849	937	968	990
Tower Hamlets	1,350	1,436	1,495	1,574	1,666	1,742	1,972	2,106	2,269	2,316
Waltham Forest	815	867	952	1,035	1,117	1,189	1,265	1,340	1,402	1,451
Wandsworth	804	797	827	857	886	911	1,028	1,049	1,086	1,141
Westminster	1,149	1,114	1,136	1,140	1,152	1,177	1,306	1,311	1,339	1,398

Notes:

1. Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Police grant, General GLA grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In the past years, it also includes SSA Reduction Grant and Central Support Protection Grant.
2. Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.
3. Per capita figures are based on Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for respective years.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Local Government: Borrowing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics her Department collects on local authority borrowing. [212830]

John Healey: Data on local authority borrowing are collected from various financial returns that are sent to local authorities. A full list of these can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfforms/Lgfforms.htm

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirement there is on local authorities to inform her Department of their intention to change their electoral arrangements under the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [212725]

John Healey: There is no requirement on local authorities to inform the Secretary of State of their intention to change their electoral arrangements; under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 these are matters for local authorities themselves and the Electoral Commission.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of the national conclusions of the 2007 Local Government Pension Scheme revaluation. [212730]

John Healey: Each of the 89 local authority pension funds in England and Wales underwent an actuarial valuation of their funds on 31 March 2007, as required by the Local Government Pension scheme regulations. Individual fund valuation results are available from the appropriate fund administering authority but no national conclusions are published.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local area agreement enabling measure requests were made in *(a)* the pilot round and *(b)* Round 2; and how many measure requests were accepted. [212735]

John Healey: In the pilot round, 56 requests for local area agreement enabling measures were made and, out of these, 29 were accepted.

In round 2, 324 requests were made and, out of these, 127 were accepted, partly accepted or already permissible.

Non-domestic Rates: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised by each London borough via national non-domestic rates in each of the last five years. [212833]

John Healey: The amount collected from national non-domestic rates by each London borough, between 2002-03 and 2006-07 is shown in the following table. The figures are given in £ millions and are the amount collected by the local authorities after any allowances for reliefs. No allowances have been made for any collection costs, losses in collection or interest paid on repayments. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Non-domestic rates collected by London boroughs 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	40.6	41.7	41.5	41.9	44.6
Barnet	73.7	67.7	73.8	80.1	86.0
Bexley	48.7	48.1	44.5	52.7	55.1
Brent	62.0	61.6	64.8	70.1	73.0
Bromley	62.2	60.2	62.0	67.5	72.3
Camden	316.3	220.0	230.5	253.5	283.2
City of London	540.9	562.9	529.4	533.6	572.8
Croydon	89.0	85.3	86.8	91.2	93.6
Ealing	93.8	88.7	93.4	98.4	109.5
Enfield	62.1	66.2	66.8	72.1	79.2
Greenwich	40.2	43.2	40.3	43.2	47.5
Hackney	46.9	50.1	46.2	52.8	55.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	93.8	96.7	106.0	94.3	109.3
Haringey	42.8	35.5	41.9	47.3	46.9
Harrow	43.3	40.5	40.8	37.7	42.2
Havering	50.3	49.8	49.3	51.5	57.2
Hillingdon	229.9	231.6	245.7	230.8	252.3
Hounslow	113.1	103.7	111.0	112.6	114.3
Islington	106.9	109.5	99.1	117.9	127.2
Kensington and Chelsea	137.9	141.5	155.7	168.2	184.7
Kingston upon Thames	55.0	55.3	57.6	62.9	67.2
Lambeth	61.1	55.2	61.5	72.1	79.2
Lewisham	32.4	34.2	35.2	36.5	39.0
Merton	50.7	51.0	53.2	56.4	60.1
Newham	52.6	49.6	58.3	60.8	65.2
Redbridge	38.6	37.6	38.6	40.2	42.0
Richmond upon Thames	50.8	51.9	54.1	60.0	62.6
Southward	83.9	82.9	94.3	103.8	108.4
Sutton	36.6	34.7	36.7	39.1	42.7
Tower Hamlets	147.3	176.5	200.2	220.3	245.4
Waltham Forest	34.5	36.0	35.1	38.4	39.9
Wandsworth	56.1	60.5	64.7	71.6	78.4
Westminster	847.7	870.1	899.8	951.8	1,000.4
Total	3,741.6	3,800.1	3,918.9	4,131.0	4,436.5

The figures shown are outturn figures taken from audited National Non-Domestic Rates 3 (NNDR3) returns that are completed by all billing authorities in England.

Parish Councils: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 534W, on council tax, what methodology her Department used to calculate the average Band D parish council tax precept, as cited in the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1169W; and whether she will use the same process to calculate the equivalent figure for 2008-09. [212679]

John Healey: The methodology used to estimate the average Band D parish council tax precept is based on assumptions set out in Local Government Financial Statistics England, as referred to in the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 534W. My officials are not yet sufficiently confident of the quality of a 2008-09 estimate of the average Band D parish council tax precept to publish it at this stage.

Post Offices: Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 546W, on post offices: non-domestic rates, how many post offices were on the 1995 ratings list in 1997 or the closest period to that year for which figures are available. [212683]

John Healey: The number of properties with a description of 'post office and premises' appearing in the rating lists for England as at 31 March 1997 was 4,742. This does not include post office facilities in premises primarily used for other purposes, such as shops, and many post offices appear in the rating lists as 'shop and premises', without any identifier to show they are also post offices.

Public Telephones

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many stand-alone telephone boxes were on the Ratings List in England and Wales in the most recent period for which figures are available. [212731]

John Healey: The number of separate assessments of stand-alone telephone boxes appearing in the local rating lists for England as at 27 May 2008 was 1,248. This figure is the number of assessments rather than individual boxes and some assessments will be in respect of clusters of telephone boxes. British Telecom and Kingston Communications (Hull) Ltd. telephone boxes are not separately assessed from their networks.

Strip Clubs: Licensing

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to tackle the concerns of local authorities that their licensing powers for lap-dancing clubs have been restricted by the Licensing Act 2003. [212216]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are consulting with local authorities on any concerns they have which they feel cannot be addressed by existing controls, including the Licensing Act 2003 and whether we need to do more to protect local communities. We do recognise that people do not necessarily want lap-dancing establishments in their neighbourhoods and we want to ensure local authorities have the powers to reflect the views of local people when considering applications. We will therefore consider whether or not lap-dancing clubs should fall under the category of Sex Encounter Establishments under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and legislate if this is necessary.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many records relating to individual dwellings on the Valuation Office Agency's property database were updated as part of the Inactivated 10 Review for CTR 2007. [212742]

John Healey: Individual dwelling details are regularly updated as part of the VOA's statutory responsibility for maintaining accurate valuation lists. There is no record of the number of amendments made before or after the decision to postpone the council tax revaluation.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Mentally Ill

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to accident and emergency units in England for mental health related issues in each of the last five years. [212231]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the requested format because patients are not admitted to accident and emergency units (A and E). Patients may be admitted to hospital as emergency admissions via A and E and through other routes.

Information is available on the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) for patients with a mental illness and who were treated under a consultant from a mental health or learning disability speciality, following emergency admission to hospital between 2002-03 and 2006-07, and these data are shown in the following table.

The data include patient episode numbers where patients with a mental illness were seen in A and E before admittance to hospital as an inpatient. Some patients may have completed more than one treatment episode during the course of a year so patient episode numbers are not a reliable indicator of patients numbers. The data exclude include those who attended A and E but were not subsequently admitted to hospital.

FAEs for patients with a mental illness who were treated under a consultant from a mental health or learning disability speciality, following emergency admittance to hospital via A and E or other routes: total admission episodes, male and female, all ages in the national health service in England between 2002-03 and 2006-07

	Emergency admittance via A and E services of health care provider	*Emergency admittance via other means including patients referred via the A and E department of another health care provider*	*Total*
2002-03	17,360	73,335	90,695
2003-04	17,883	69,076	86,959
2004-05	16,374	68,786	85,160
2005-06	13,828	65,199	79,027
2006-07	12,804	61,027	73,831

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care.

Anorexia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of anorexia were diagnosed in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex; [212648]

(2) how many cases of bulimia were diagnosed in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex. [212649]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Antidepressants: Prescriptions

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of *(a)* individual benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* individual antidepressants were dispensed in the community in 2007. [213031]

Dawn Primarolo: Benzodiazepine drugs are used to treat a variety of conditions and therefore appear in several different parts of the British National Formulary (BNF) and are shown in table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Benzodiazepine prescription items dispensed, in the community, in England, in 2007

BNF generic name	*Item (thousand)*
Alprazolam	—
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	272.6
Clobazam	147.9
Clonazepam	474.1
Diazepam	4,722.5
Loprazolam Mesilate	108.1
Lorazepam	881.8
Lormetazepam	119.1
Midazolam	1.9
Midazolam Hydrochloride	49.2
Midazolam Maleate	4.3
Nitrazepam	1,249.9
Oxazepam	188.8
Temazepam	3,254.8
Total	11,475.0

'—' Indicates the number of prescriptions dispensed was between 0 and 100.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Antidepressant drugs are grouped into BNF section 4.3 and are shown in table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Antidepressant prescription items dispensed, in the community, in England, in 2007

BNF generic name	*Item (thousand)*
Amitriptyline Embonate	—
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	6,591.1
Amoxapine	—
Citalopram Hydrobromide	7,830.7
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	367.1
Desipramine Hydrochloride	—
Dosulepin Hydrochloride	2077.6
Doxepin	42.0
Duloxetine Hydrochloride	267.3
Escitalopram	1,373.9
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	5,045.7
Flupentixol Hydrochloride	197.0
Fluvoxamine Maleate	29.9
Imipramine Hydrochloride	209.1
Isocarboxazid	3.3
Lofepramine Hydrochloride	421.6
Maprotiline Hydrochloride	0.3
Mianserin Hydrochloride	9.7
Mirtazapine	2,101.5
Moclobemide	24.9
Nefazodione Hydrochloride	0.5
Nortriptyline	180.0
Oxitriptan	—
Paroxetine Hydrochloride	1,765.9
Phenelzine Sulphate	24.4
Reboxetine	53.4
Sertraline Hydrochloride	2,032.8
Tranylcypromine Sulphate	12.7
Trazodone Hydrochloride	749.7
Trimipramine Maleate	142.6
Tryptophan	10.3
Venlafaxine	2,274.7
Total	33,839.7

'—' Indicates the number of prescriptions dispensed was between 0 and 100.
Source:
PCA system.

Autism: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* the Dacorum borough council area and *(b)* Hertfordshire have been diagnosed with autism; and how many of them are children. [210141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Cancer: East of England

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make an assessment of the possible social impact of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in the East of England on families in Ipswich and the surrounding areas; [209858]

(2) if he will hold discussions with the Minister for Women and Equality on the possible effect of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in the East of England on women in Ipswich and the surrounding areas; [209859]

(3) if he will assess the impact of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in the East of England on those living in wards that are low down on the index of multiple deprivation in Ipswich and the surrounding areas; [209861]

(4) what assessment he has made of the impact of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in the East of England on carbon dioxide emissions in Ipswich and surrounding areas; [209862]

(5) if he will investigate the accuracy of the figures provided by Ipswich Hospital to the Suffolk Primary Care Trust on the number of head and neck cancer cases dealt with by that hospital. [209866]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with their strategic health authorities (SHAs), and other stakeholders are responsible for assessing and making decisions regarding local services.

We understand that no decisions have been made, and that Suffolk PCT has led a consultation from 5 March 2008 to 4 June 2008, on a proposal to change the provision of specialist head and neck cancer surgery for patients in East Suffolk and in West Suffolk. The right hon. Member may therefore wish to raise these issues with the chief executives of Suffolk PCT or the East of England SHA.

More generally where it is agreed that the proposals to reconfigure services include any significant change to the way services are provided, local trusts have a duty to consult with the public and the relevant overview and scrutiny committee (OSC). Following the consultation period, the national health service organisations will have to make a decision on the best way forward. Local OSCs have the power to review and scrutinise health services from the perspective of their local populations, and can refer proposals to the Secretary of State if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service. Ultimately, however, the configuration of healthcare services in a particular area is a decision that needs to be taken at a local level.

Cannabis: Rehabilitation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 16W, on drugs: rehabilitation, for what reasons there are no plans to integrate cannabis cessation services within national health service stop smoking services. [200043]

Dawn Primarolo: We encourage closer working between national health service (NHS) 'Stop Smoking Services' and those services that support cannabis cessation where there is a locally identified need for this.

This might include improving the systems locally for identifying such need within services or populations at risk and might also include developing models of integrated provision of services, the facilitation of mutual referrals between such services or a combination of both such approaches.

The nature of this closer work is a matter for the local NHS services to decide on and we expect commissioners and providers will develop such services in response to their ongoing assessment of local needs and priorities.

It is important to note that some cannabis users may also be using other illicit drugs and it therefore may be more appropriate for them to be given cannabis cessation advice within specialist drug treatment services.

Congenital Abnormalities

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were born with amniotic band syndrome in each of the last 10 years. [212444]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females were born with amniotic band syndrome in each of the last 10 years. (212444)

The table attached provides the number of (a) male and (b) female live and still births notified to the National Congenital Anomaly System for England and Wales (NCAS) with a mention of amniotic bands or clinically similar terms, for 2000 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures are not available prior to 2000.

The number of notifications received by NCAS is likely to be less than the actual number of infants born with an anomaly. NHS Trusts provide these notifications to NCAS on a voluntary basis, either on forms sent to the Office for National Statistics or via local congenital anomaly registers. The recording of congenital anomalies is more complete in those areas where a register operates, because the register can obtain additional information locally. Consequently, the figures for congenital anomalies are presented separately for areas where a register operated and for areas without a register in a particular year. While a few of these local congenital anomaly registers were already established in 2000, others were set up as late as 2003. In 2006, registers covered 43 per cent of births in England and all births in Wales.

Table 1: Number of notifications to the National Congenital Anomaly System with a mention of amniotic bands, congenital constriction bands or Limb Body Wall complex[1], 2000-06 England and Wales[2]

		Register areas		Non-register areas		Total	
	Percentage of births covered by a register[3]	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2000	27	0	1	0	0	0	1
2001	26	1	0	0	0	1	0
2002	32	3	1	0	1	3	2
2003	45	5	3	2	3	7	6
2004	48	6	4	2	2	8	6
2005	48	9	4	1	2	10	6
2006[4]	44	7	4	2	3	9	7

[1] The table includes notifications coded to Q79.8 using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) with a mention of amniotic bands, congenital constriction bands or limb body wall complex.

[2] Figures are not available before 2000.

[3] Births to women resident in England and Wales.

[4] Figures for 2006 exclude data for some areas which used to be part of East Midlands and South Yorkshire congenital anomaly register.

Dental Services: Internet

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the list of NHS dentists in the find services section of the NHS website was last updated; and whether there are plans to update it. [210184]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Choices dentist directory lists the details of approximately 12,500 dental practices.

Dentist directory data is provided by two sources. The first source is NHS Connecting for Health's primary care information service (PCIS). NHS Choices receives a daily data feed from PCIS which updates the dental directory every evening. This feed covers approximately 3,000 dentists. The accuracy and completeness of this data is the responsibility of the PCIS.

The second source of dental practice data is from primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs are responsible for maintaining national health service dentist data for the remaining 9,500 dental practices. NHS Choices provides PCTs with a secure on-line facility to edit the details of dental practitioners with whom they contract. Changes made by PCT web-editors are generally shown on NHS Choices within 24 hours.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211688]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Land

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 174 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will list each receipt from land sales *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* expected in 2008-09; and what (i) the location of the land sold was, (ii) the book value of each piece of land was and (iii) the amount for which each was sold was. [209188]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of national health service property sales are not held centrally. The following tables provide the requested details in respect of sales of assets in the ownership of the Secretary of State, as follows:

Table 1—receipts from land sales to third parties completed during 2007-08; and

Table 2—properties sold or expected to be sold to third parties during 2008-09.

In table 1, the sale price has been given where a property has been sold. Where a property remains to be sold, the anticipated receipt is commercially confidential and therefore has not been provided.

Three of the properties listed as sold in 2007-08 were transferred to English Partnerships as part of a much larger portfolio to assist with the Government's Sustainable Communities programme, for which a single price was agreed. The proceeds listed are an apportionment of the total transfer price.

Table1: 2007-08 disposals of departmental property to third parties

Properties sold to third parties	*Location*	*Asset value (£000)*	*Sale price (£000)*
10 Woodside	Plymouth	237	335
18 Paddington Green	London W2	1,025	1,210
337-339 Hackney Road	London E2	598	1,430
35 Higher Kingston	Yeovil, Somerset	34	135
Eastry Hospital	Kent	1,700	1,700
Land at former Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital	Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon	0	165
Queen Elizabeth Children's Hospital	Hackney, London	7,632	8,500
Cane Hill Hospital	Coulsdon, Surrey	17,641	[1]10,666
St. Mary's Hospital	Stannington, Northumbria	9,993	3,875
103 Oakwood Drive	Ulverston, Cumbria	133	129
Sedgefield Community Hospital	Sedgefield, Co. Durham	3,067	3,269
Agricultural Land adj. Winterton Hospital.	Sedgefield, Co. Durham	105	105
Willowburn Hospice, former Maiden Law Hospital	Lanchester, Durham	191	185
18 Battlefields Lane	Holbeach, Lincolnshire	144	116
112 Northbourne Road	Jarrow, Tyne and Wear	83	83
140 Hedworth Lane	Jarrow, Tyne and Wear	140	140
27 Willow Grange	Jarrow, Tyne and Wear	131	131
Holbeach Hospital	Holbeach, Lincolnshire	617	325
Land at Honey Lane	Waltham Abbey, Essex	76	73
Land at Mollands Lane/ Mollands Ct.	South Ockendon, Essex	0	22
Land adj. to Warde Aldam Nursing Home, South Elmsall	Wakefield, West Yorks	105	248
Cherry Knowle Hospital, part	Ryhope, Sunderland	17,604	[1]4,267
Land at Towers Hospital	Leicester	758	1,592
Towers Hospital, Oakham House	Leicester	56	[1]711

[1] Part of portfolio transfer

Table 2: 2008-09 planned disposals of departmental property to third parties

Properties sold or expected to be sold to third parties	*Location*	*Asset value (£000)*	*Sale price (£000)*
30 Paul Road	Bodmin, Cornwall	97	97
332 High Road	London N15	195	—
Dog Kennel Wood	Aylesford, Kent	42	—
Napsbury North Land	London Colney, St. Albans	443	—
10 houses in North West Surrey	North West Surrey	2,064	2,200
10 Palmer Crescent,	Ottershaw, Surrey	264	—
Woodside Car Park	Plymouth	132	—
22-38 Princes Road	Redhill, Surrey	1,212	—
67 Warwick Avenue	Kensington, London	1,286	—
667-669 Garratt Lane	London SW17	268	—
63-65 Bardsley Drive	Farnham, Surrey	379	—
Blackbrook House	Fareham, Hampshire	2,329	—
Farm Lane House	Plymouth	310	—
Halcyon	Plymouth	310	—
Oaklands	Plymouth	275	—
Horton House	Horton Hospital, Epsom	706	675
Stoke Mandeville Residences	Stoke Mandeville, Bucks.	2,864	—
15 Ambleside Avenue	Streatham, London	525	—
50 Scattergate Green	Appleby, Cumbria	79	—
White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road	Harrogate, West Yorks	2,877	—
Land at Northern View	Bradford, West Yorks	8,229	—
Eagle Cottages, Monkton Lane, Monkton Village	Jarrow, Tyne and Wear	354	—
Former Primrose Lane Hospital Site	Primrose Lane, Huntingdon, Cambs	838	—
Land at Cronehills Health Centre	West Bromwich	50	—
Land at Wellington Cottage Hospital	Wellington, Shropshire	270	—
Little Plumstead, Phase 2	Near Norwich, Norfolk	2,731	—
Land at Dale Crescent, Balderton	Near Newark	11	—
Warwick Cottage, adjoining Melton War Memorial Hospital	Melton Mowbray	116	—

Departmental Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid in bonuses to staff in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07; and for each year (i) how many staff received bonuses, (ii) what the highest amount paid to any individual was and (iii) what the average bonus was; and how many staff received bonuses above (A) £1,000, (B) £5,000, (C) 10,000 and (D) £20,000. [209455]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	2007-08	*2006-07*
Amount paid as bonuses (£)	1,947,319	1,400,049
Number of staff receiving bonuses	618	420
Highest amount of bonus paid to an individual (£)	27,500	22,500
Average amount of bonus paid (£)	3,151	3,333
Number of staff receiving bonuses above £1,000	265	216
Number of staff receiving bonuses above £5,000	130	119
Number of staff receiving bonuses above £10,000	62	20
Number of staff receiving bonuses above £20,000	6	2

Special bonuses can be awarded to any member of staff in recognition of work beyond their normal range of duties. Annual bonuses are paid to staff who are members of the senior civil service, based on the extent to which objectives are met, how they are met and how stretching they are.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2007-08; what the amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [213306]

Mr. Bradshaw: In total 618 staff in the Department received bonus payments in 2007-08. They represented 28 per cent. of the total work force. The total amount of bonuses paid was £1,947,319. The largest single payment was £27,500.

A significant proportion of bonuses paid were to staff who are senior civil servants, where the Department's policy is determined by the Cabinet Office guidance on civil service bonuses.

Gambling: Females

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women contacted the NHS for help with gambling addiction in each year for which figures are available since 1997. [210362]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not collected centrally.

Problem gamblers can access services in primary care and secondary care including specialised mental health and addiction services. Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of women who contacted the national health service for help with problem gambling.

General Practitioners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the capacity of groups of GPs to bid for tendered primary care contracts in competition with private sector companies. [210264]

Mr. Bradshaw: We believe general practitioners (GPs) are fully able to tender to provide new primary care services for patients. We have asked primary care trusts to undertake open, fair and transparent procurements to ensure the fullest range of providers can bid, including existing GP practices. Many are planning to do this, for instance, in the East Midlands strategic health authority, around 70 per cent. of local GPs were successful in the early stages of the tendering process.

General Practitioners: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the income of each GP surgery in Cornwall came from subsidies for dispensing medicine in the latest period for which figures are available. [211011]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected centrally on individual general practitioner (GP) dispensing practices profits or income gained under the GP contract. Overall, dispensing GPs earned on average £127,061 in 2005-06, £20,000 more than non-dispensing GPs.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the Carr-Hill formula. [212207]

Mr. Bradshaw: Partial publication of the Carr Hill formula is contained within the 'New GMS Contract 2003 Investing in General Practice', annex D 'Carr-Hill resource allocation formula' published December 2003 (copies of this publication are available in the Library) and also within the jointly agreed NHS employers and British Medical Association 'Review of the General Medical Services global sum formula' published 9 February 2007. Copies of this publication are available in the Library

A full version of the Carr-Hill formula will now be made available for reference in the House of Commons Library.

Health Centres: Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mapping of the health services was conducted, and in particular the locations of pharmacies, in areas that have been identified as under-doctored or with health inequality before the decision was taken to introduce polyclinics. [209088]

Mr. Bradshaw: None. It is primary care trusts that will determine where services are located depending on local needs and circumstances and following local consultation. The Department does not have a polyclinic policy. We are asking the local national health service to develop new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres for local communities that will improve local services and access for patients.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital: Maternity Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on the number of beds in maternity facilities at Hemel Hempstead Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [208459]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is not aware of any recent representations on maternity facilities in Hemel Hempstead since November 2007.

More generally, on 25 January 2008, the Department announced an extra £330 million of funding for maternity services in England over the three years from April 2008. This will ensure that mothers will get the best possible care and will be guaranteed a full range of choices.

HIV Infection: Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs infected with HIV through contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment *(a)* are still alive and *(b)* were still alive in (i) 2000, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2002, (iv) 2003, (v) 2004, (vi) 2005, (vii) 2006 and (viii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [213515]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect the data requested. However, the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centres Doctors' Organisation has provided the following information:

	Number of haemophiliacs (types A and B) infected with HIV	*Total deaths reported during the year*[1]
2000	484	23
2001	461	14
2002	447	14
2003	433	9
2004	424	9
2005	415	9
2006	406	7
2007	399	6

[1] This figure includes death by all causes for haemophilia A and B patients with HIV

Hospices: Finance

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been made available to hospices in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [211013]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on national health service funding to hospices is not collected centrally.

It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide the level of funding they allocate to end of life care services, including hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for negotiation between the local PCT and the hospice.

Hospitals: East of England

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what definition he uses of close geographical proximity; and whether Ipswich Hospital and the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital are in close geographical proximity according to the terms of that definition; [209867]

(2) what definition he uses of sparsely populated area; and whether *(a)* Norfolk and *(b)* Suffolk are such areas within the terms of his definition. [209869]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not define 'close geographical proximity' or 'sparsely populated area'. These are matters for local national health service organisations to consider, in conjunction with their strategic health authorities and other stakeholders.

The right hon. Member may therefore wish to raise these issues locally with the chief executive of Suffolk Primary Care Trust, or the chief executive of the East of England Strategic Health Authority.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 were admitted to hospital with (i) stab wounds and (ii) gunshot wounds in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [210404]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is collected on the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) to hospital via accident and emergency (Accident and Emergency). A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Tables have been placed in the Library which provide a breakdown of relevant data by strategic health authority.

Ipswich Hospital

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what status his Department classifies Ipswich hospital as; and when that status last changed. [209863]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ipswich hospital is a national health service trust and was established as such in November 1992, under the National Health Service and Community Care Act of 1990.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the data controller in respect of information stored on the secondary users database will be. [212184]

Mr. Bradshaw: By reason of the relevant definition at Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998, the data controller for information held within the secondary uses service is currently the Secretary of State.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he has been designated as data controller in relation to personal data contained in a detailed care record. [212185]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data Controller responsibilities are a matter of fact determined in any particular case in accordance with the relevant definition contained in the Data Protection Act 1998.

In relation to the NHS care records service, the Secretary of State is a data controller for detailed care records in common with national health service organisations, which remain data controllers for information they hold about the patients for whom they provide care.

The Secretary of State has taken on certain responsibilities, for example for ensuring that the network is operated in a secure manner, by virtue of holding the contract for the new systems.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the data controller will be in respect of information recorded in a patient's *(a)* summary and *(b)* detailed care record in cases where the record contains information provided separately by the patient to distinct legal entities which have different independent data controllers. [212186]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data controller responsibilities are a matter of fact determined in any particular case in accordance with the relevant definition contained in the Data Protection Act 1998.

The data controller for the summary care record is currently the Secretary of State. With regard to detailed care records, the Secretary of State is currently a data controller in common with national health service organisations, which remain data controllers for information they hold about the patients for whom they provide care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that the Secretary of State shall not be a data controller in relation to personal data processed on a detailed care record. [213315]

Mr. Bradshaw: By reason of the relevant definition at Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Secretary of State is already currently a data controller for detailed care records, in common with the national health service organisations which create the records in providing health care to patients.

Medical Records: Lost Property

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient records were lost in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [210418]

Mr. Bradshaw: While the Department provides comprehensive guidance on expected practice, the security of patient records is a local responsibility with local accountability. Information about the numbers of patient records that have been lost is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department issued guidance to the local national health service and other health bodies in February 2008 clarifying when details of incidents involving actual or potential data losses should be reported to strategic health authorities (SHAs). The SHAs are now required to publish details of reported incidents each quarter on their websites.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much expenditure there was on Tier 4 and Tier 5 services for people with personality disorders in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement on the implementation of Policy Implementation Guidance for the Development of Services for People with Personality Disorder, NIMHE 2003. [209036]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The overall expenditure by the national health service on tier 4 personality disorder services in 2005-06, the year for which the most recent data are available, was approximately £9.6 million. Information is not available on expenditure by the independent sector.

In 2006-07, £8.45 million went into primary care trust (PCT) baselines in respect of tier 4 personality disorder services and those funds were fully spent on the services involved through service level agreements with commissioners.

From 2007-08 (when baseline allocations were £9.14 million), many PCTs have elected to commission services for people with severe personality disorders on a cost-per-case basis (i.e. individual placements). There is therefore no information on the actual level of expenditure.

Over the 2005-08 period, tier 5 NHS medium secure and community forensic services received £25.31 million. During this period, capital spending was £23.56 million. This revenue was devolved to local PCT and specialised commissioners for 2008-09.

Following commitments in the 1997 election manifesto, the Government have implemented a range of initiatives to improve services to those with a personality disorder. Two distinct but linked programmes have resulted from new investment: Managing Dangerous Offenders with a severe Personality Disorder and Personality Disorder - No Longer a Diagnosis of Exclusion.

These offer new interventions for the spectrum of patients in the population who pose a risk of harm either to themselves or to others as a result of their personality disorder. The effectiveness of our initiatives to improving services for the often hidden and excluded members of every local community will be significantly improved by the growing number of new and often innovative services for those with a personality disorder. The programmes also demonstrate a commitment to greater coherence and collaborative working between both Government agencies and public and independent services in the field.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* levels of implementation and *(b)* effectiveness of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for the treatment of (i) antenatal and post-natal mental health, (ii) anxiety, (iii) bipolar disorder, (iv) dementia, (v) depression, (vi) depression in children and young people, (vii) drug misuse: opioid detoxification, (viii) drug misuse: psychological interventions, (ix) eating disorders, (x) obsessive compulsive disorder, (xi) post-traumatic stress disorder, (xii) schizophrenia, (xiii) self-harm and (xiv) violent behaviour. [212220]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An assessment of this nature has not been made. Compliance with clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) forms part of the developmental standards for the national health service and NHS organisations are expected to move towards their full implementation.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was allocated by his Department for mental health in-reach teams in England for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007; [212214]

(2) what the reasons are for variations in regional allocations of funding per capita spending on mental health in-reach teams in prison facilities. [212215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The total amount allocated specifically to primary care trusts for national health service mental health in-reach services in prisons was £9.4 million in 2003-04. Since 2005-06, expenditure has been around £20 million each year.

Regional variations in funding occur because of the different numbers and types of prisons situated in each area. For example, large city male prisons need greater per capita mental health investment because they contain higher levels of prisoners with acute mental health problems.

NHS: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department had with primary care trusts on the continued provision of fuel to NHS workers *(a)* prior to and *(b)* during the recent strike by tanker drivers. [213463]

Mr. Bradshaw: The arrangements for accessing fuel for national health service workers are handled at the local level. The Department encourages all NHS organisations to establish contingency plans in line with business continuity management advice and guidance, of which the sourcing of fuel is one element. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to put in place local arrangements to enable them to meet their responsibilities as Category 1 and 2 responders under the terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The Government have also established emergency provisions, as a part of the National Emergency Plan—Fuel, which can be invoked should the essential services be unable to obtain fuel.

The Department liaised regularly across the NHS during the recent tanker drivers' strike to ensure that local contingency plans were being implemented effectively to respond to the crisis.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the outcomes of the health informatics review. [212209]

Mr. Bradshaw: We plan to publish the outcomes of the review shortly.

NHS: Reorganisation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Lord Darzi's interim report, what assessment his review made of *(a)* the need for (i) general practitioner-led health centres and (ii) new general practitioner practices in each primary care trust and *(b)* the priority which primary care trusts should give to (A) additional expenditure on new services and (B) other assessed needs; and if he will make a statement. [211097]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the NHS Next Stage review interim report and the comprehensive spending review process, we identified the need to secure additional resources for primary care trusts to:

make progress in improving the health and care to the population with the greatest need and poorest services;

to continue to improve access for patients to see a general practitioner at more convenient times; and

to provide greater choice for patients in accessing primary medical care services.

This new provision will also provide opportunities for primary care trusts (PCTs) to locally commission services that better enable tackling underlying causes of ill health, ensuring a greater focus on prevention, health promotion and integration of local services.

It is for PCTs to develop the detailed service specification it requires locally based on local needs and circumstances and to commission this service through an open, fair and transparent process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the dates are of the meetings he has had with the Prime Minister to discuss the NHS Reform Bill contained in the draft legislative programme for 2008-09. [212612]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the Healthcare Commission supplements NHS trusts' self-assessments against core standard c15b; what sources of information the Healthcare Commission uses in such assessments; and if he will make a statement. [212198]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission supplements its self-assessments with feedback from local stakeholders. These include patient and public involvement forums, local authority overview and scrutiny committees, strategic health authorities and, in the case of national health service foundation trusts, boards of governors. They also use information from other regulatory bodies, NHS patient and staff surveys, and previous Healthcare Commission studies to cross-check NHS trusts declarations of performance.

In addition, to validate the self-declaration process the Healthcare Commission inspect a sample of NHS trusts. The inspection guide for c15b is published on the Healthcare Commission's website.

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to the report of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence on the performance of the Nursing and Midwifery Council. [213080]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is accelerating the process of moving towards a newly constituted council via reforms in the Nursing and Midwifery (Amendment) Order 2008, which will deliver a new, wholly appointed Council by the new year. This piece of legislation has already been endorsed by Parliament. In future, all Council members will be appointed rather than elected.

The Department will also be passing on our concerns to the Privy Council, to consider whether any action on their part is appropriate.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board to publish its final report; whether an interim progress report will be *(a)* written and *(b)* published; and if he will make a statement; [212196]

(2) what work the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board plans to undertake in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [212197]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is envisaged that the final report from the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board (NAPDB) on progress made against implementing the Nutrition Action Plan will be published at the end of 2008. An interim progress report from the NAPDB will be published in the summer.

The Department will review whether to extend the NAPDB's existence beyond December 2008 upon consideration of their end of year report and any implications from that report.

Rampton Hospital

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation staff at Rampton Special hospital have received from patients following prosecutions in the last five years. [211358]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare National Health Service Trust who might be able to provide some of this information.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are trained in restorative justice and conflict resolution techniques at Rampton Special hospital. [211359]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not held centrally on numbers of staff in national health service high security hospitals trained in restorative justice.

Information on the number of staff undergoing conflict resolution training at Rampton High Security hospital is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of staff reported as having undergone conflict resolution training from April 2004 to December 2007 at the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which includes Rampton High Security hospital, was 2,960.

Source: NHS Security Management Service

Suicide

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take account of the suicide strategies in Scotland and Northern Ireland in *(a)* assessments of and *(b)* revisions to England's National Suicide Strategy. [211484]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of our ongoing assessment of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England we will continue to take into account emerging evidence from international suicide prevention strategies including those in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the five nations representing England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland have established a suicide prevention strategies coordinating group to share information, research and evidence on suicide prevention actions among the five nations. This group meets on a regular basis.

I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave her on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1034W, on the plans for the future of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the annual savings to his Department from the closures of the diplomatic posts in *(a)* Mbabane, Swaziland, *(b)* Maseru, Lesotho, *(c)* Bamako, Mali and *(d)* Antananarivo, Madagascar; and if he will make a statement. [213454]

David Miliband: It is estimated the annual savings listed in the following table, at 2008-09 values, were made from the closures of diplomatic posts in:

	£
Mbabane, Swaziland	600,000
Maseru, Lesotho	820,000
Bamako, Mali	250,000
Antananarivo, Madagascar	540,000

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to manage our overseas network to reflect changing demands and challenges, ensuring that our resources are aligned with our priorities and that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation. We continue to keep UK representation in Africa under review and, where necessary, to make adjustments in individual countries to meet our operational needs.

Colombia: Capital Punishment

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of civilians extra-judicially executed by Colombian security forces in the last 12 months. [212860]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Colombia for 2008 (A/HRC/39) details the persistence of extrajudicial executions attributed to members of the Colombian security forces, especially by members of the army. It also notes the Colombian Government's attempts to tackle this by strengthening control mechanisms, the political will of senior personnel to adopt measures to prevent, investigate and punish those responsible and new directives issued by the Colombian Ministry of Defence.

I have outlined the Government's strong concern about extrajudicial killings to the Colombian Minister of Defence on a number of occasions and raised the subject with the Colombian President at the EU-Latin America and Caribbean summit in Lima in May 2008. We are matching this advocacy with practical help. The UK has been very active and influential in promoting human rights training and adherence in the Colombian armed forces and police. Further work in this area, funded by the UK Conflict Prevention Pool, will include helping the Colombian Government to eradicate extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses and, equally importantly, to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212888]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and British Council 2006-07 annual resource accounts include the latest published valuations for the Estate of £1.27 billion and £85.6 million respectively; With the exception of the British Council, no other associated body (Executive Agency or Non-Departmental Public Body) holds property; FCO Services are co-located with the FCO, and Wilton Park is leased.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to Ethiopia to accept the ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopian Boundary Commission; and if he will make a statement. [212773]

Meg Munn: The UK's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute is based on three principles: to avoid any return to war; for the border to be demarcated; and for the parties to normalise their relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin, as set out in the Algiers Agreements of June 2000 and December 2000, signed by Ethiopia and Eritrea.

We have set out this policy to both Ethiopia and Eritrea, including in November 2007 when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin and when my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Vadera, and our ambassador in Addis Ababa met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, also conveyed these points to Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh in November 2007 and to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles in January in Addis Ababa. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials continually reiterate these messages to both the Ethiopian and Eritrean ambassadors to London and to their interlocutors in the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea in Addis Ababa and Asmara respectively.

We will continue to pursue the aforementioned policy with our international partners, including through the UN Security Council (UNSC). In this regard, we fully support UNSC Resolution 1798, adopted unanimously on 30 January and the UNSC's Presidential Statement of 30 April. We expect the parties to implement fully all the provisions of these, including those relating to demarcation of the border. We support all efforts of the UN with the parties, to which UK efforts are closely aligned.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of recent clashes along the Dijibouti-Eritrea border on the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict; and if he will make a statement. [212774]

Meg Munn: We supported the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 12 June in condemning Eritrea's incursion and urging both sides to show maximum restraint.

The clashes along the Djibouti-Eritrea border contribute to the instability in the Horn of Africa sub-region, although we have yet to see any direct effects of these clashes on the Ethiopian-Eritrean border situation.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking with their international partners to ensure that the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea is fully deployed; and if he will make a statement. [212776]

Meg Munn: The UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) relocated from Eritrea on 19 May due to fuel restrictions placed on UNMEE in Eritrea by the Eritrean government. The UN Security Council (UNSC) had previously reiterated its condemnation of Eritrean action in a Presidential Statement dated 30 April.

The future of UNMEE and a UN presence in Ethiopia and Eritrea is next scheduled to be discussed in the UNSC on 23 June.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government support the proposal in the UN Secretary General's report to the Security Council (S/2008/226) of a small observer mission to be deployed to the Ethiopia-Eritrea border area to defuse tensions between the armed forces of the two countries. [212906]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to parliamentary written question 212773, which lays out the Government's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border.

We support all UN efforts to bring a resolution to this dispute. The effectiveness of any small observer mission deployed to the Ethiopia-Eritrean border to defuse tensions between the armed forces of the two countries would depend on the degree of co-operation from both parties.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK supports the proposal of a UN Special Envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [212907]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to parliamentary written question 212773, which lays out the UK Government's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border.

We support all UN efforts to bring a resolution to this dispute. The effectiveness of a UN Special Envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea would depend on the degree of co-operation from both parties. The Government of Eritrea have, at times in the past, refused to meet with UN Special Envoys.

Iran: Israel

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy of President Ahmadinejad's remarks that celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary was like celebrating the birthday of a dead person. [212976]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK considers that President Ahmadinejad's recent comments are yet another example of his unacceptable and uncivilised approach to Israel which can only damage international confidence in Iran's willingness to act as a respectable member of the international community. The Government have consistently condemned the Iranian President's inflammatory comments about the State of Israel and his offensive statements about the Holocaust.

Most recently on 9 May 2008 the EU presidency, with strong UK support, issued a statement condemning in the strongest possible terms the recent anti-Israeli comments made by the President of Iran. It called on President Ahmadinejad to stop hostile rhetoric and refrain from all threats to other states.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy of President Ahmadinejad's comments at the World Food Summit that Israel is a false regime destined to disappear. [212977]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him today (parliamentary written question 212976).

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Russia's involvement in developing the Bushehr nuclear reactor in Iran. [212939]

Dr. Howells: In 1976 the Shah of Iran contracted with a German company to build two nuclear power reactors at Bushehr. Before the first was completed, the Iranian Revolution of 1979 overthrew the Shah and led to the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For many years construction was halted. After the Iran/Iraq War, Russia agreed in 1995 to fit one of their VVER-1000 power reactors into the original reactor building. This reactor, Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant-1, is now nearing completion. The Russians have secured a contract with Iran to supply the first 10 years worth of fresh fuel for the reactor and are willing to supply fuel for its lifetime. The Iranian authorities announced that the first shipment of low-enriched uranium from Russia was delivered to Bushehr on 17 December 2007.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Iranian response to UN Security Council Resolution 1803. [212941]

Dr. Howells: There has been no formal response from Iran to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803. The 3 June deadline in UNSCR 1803 for Iran to comply with the Security Council's demands has now passed. Iran has not suspended its enrichment-related activities, or granted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the greater access it seeks, as the IAEA Director General's latest report made clear. A generous engagement package was delivered to Tehran by Javier Solana and five E3+3 Political Directors on 14 June. We hope for a rapid, positive response. If this is not forthcoming, we will push forward on new, tougher sanctions, including a new UNSCR.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the Iranian nuclear programme. [212974]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Dr Mohammad El Baradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reported on 26 May that Iran had failed to suspend enrichment-related activities, had made no progress on the transparency measures the UN Security Council (UNSC) and IAEA have long called for and had failed to answer the IAEA's questions relating to studies with a possible military dimension. Dr El Baradei said that these studies were a "matter of serious concern". On 8 April, Iranian President Ahmadinejad announced that Iran would increase the number of centrifuges from 3,000 to 6,000. Dr El Baradei has criticised this development. The Government agree with him that it is essential that Iran suspends its enrichment-related activities in accordance with its obligations to the UNSC. Unless Iran does so, the international community will have no confidence that Iran's nuclear programme is of an entirely civilian nature. We have called on Iran to provide answers to the IAEA's questions immediately. There is no justification for further delay.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the threat posed to regional security by Iran's nuclear programme. [212975]

Dr. Howells: Iran's nuclear programme, which continues in breach of four UN Security Council Resolutions, threatens the stability of the region. By continuing with an enrichment programme for which we can see no apparent civilian purpose and in the face of clear international concern, Iran is doing little to address the serious lack of confidence in its assertions that its intentions are exclusively peaceful—a fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency continues to say it cannot verify. We have a close and ongoing dialogue with our regional allies on the issue and will be working with them in the coming months to increase the pressure on Iran to comply with its international obligations.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the EU, *(b)* the US Administration and *(c)* the UN on proposals to extend sanctions against Iran. [212940]

Dr. Howells: We are in constant contact with EU and E3+3 colleagues on the Iranian nuclear issue. The Government will continue to work closely with EU partners to pass further measures as soon as possible, including the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803 in the EU. Discussions are continuing in Brussels and I will inform the House when these have been agreed. We are also discussing with US and EU partners a range of additional sanctions on Iran, including in the oil and gas sector. We will be seeking a new UNSCR in the coming months if Iran does not give a rapid, positive response to the E3+3's generous offer, delivered to Tehran on 14 June by Javier Solana.

Iraq: Christianity

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the treatment of Christians in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [213181]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* Like all sectors of Iraqi society, the Christian community has been affected by the unacceptable level of violence in Iraq which continues despite improvements in the overall security environment. Our diplomatic missions and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq, my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd), regularly raise with the Government of Iraq the need for adequate protection of all minority groups.

Progress on national reconciliation is the fundamental requirement to create a sustainable and secure environment for all Iraqis and we continue to support the Government of Iraq to achieve that goal.

Israel: Human Rights

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the appointment of Professor Richard Falk by the UN Human Rights Council as the investigator of alleged human rights violations by Israel. [212753]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* With UK support, Richard Falk was appointed as Special Rapporteur by the President of the UN Human Rights Council during its seventh session. Professor Falk made his first appearance at the UN Human Rights Council on 16 June when he presented his first report. We regularly raise a range of human rights issues with the Israeli Government such as the impact of border crossing closures, their conduct of security operations, the construction of illegal settlements and the barrier in the West Bank.

Maldives: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical assistance the Government are giving to support the Presidential elections in the Maldives in October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [212777]

Dr. Howells: The UK is co-financing Commonwealth technical assistance to the Maldivian Government to improve the Maldives' electoral legislative framework. Separately, we are funding a Maldivian non-governmental organisation voter education programme, and through the BBC World Service Trust, training for journalists in election reporting. The UK also fully supports the work of the EU electoral expert seconded to the Maldivian Election Commission. Free, fair and credible elections are a crucial element of democratic reform in the Maldives. When my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Gayoom on 11 June, he reiterated the UK's support for the elections and democracy in the Maldives.

Pakistan: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in Pakistan. [212927]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in regular contact with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on a wide range of issues. Pakistan remains a priority for UK foreign policy. In April 2008 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan where he met Foreign Minister Qureshi, and they last spoke in person on 12 June 2008 at the Afghanistan conference in Paris.

Rwanda: Official Visits

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the members were of the delegation that accompanied Rwandan President Paul Kagame on his visit to the UK in May. [212820]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* President Paul Kagame of Rwanda came to the UK by invitation of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to attend the Millennium Development Goals Call to Action event. The principal members of his delegation were Foreign Affairs Minister Rosemary Museminali and Rwandan ambassador to the UK Claver Gatete. A number of policy and security advisers accompanied the delegation along with security and support staff.

Treaty of Lisbon: Referendums

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with other EU member state Governments on the recent Irish referendum. [213026]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement to the House on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 704-05, on the Irish referendum.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement to the House on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, following the European Council in Brussels from 19-20 June.

United Arab Emirates: Prisoners

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to secure the release of those arrested in 2008 as a result of United Arab Emirates (UAE) enforcement initiatives; whether the Government have made representations to the UAE Government seeking clemency for those imprisoned; and what account is taken of the length of time spent in custody in making such representations. [212100]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 18 June 2008]*: It is a matter for the United Arab Emirates authorities to decide on their policy with respect to the import and possession of drugs. We cannot interfere in the judicial process of another country, just as we would not expect another country to interfere in ours. We cannot get people out of prison or detention, nor can we secure special treatment for them because of their nationality.

Our primary concern is the welfare of British nationals detained overseas. We will consider approaching the local authorities where a trial does not follow internationally accepted standards of practice, where a British detainee has a justified complaint of ill treatment against the local authorities or where welfare questions, for example dietary and medical issues of a British detainee, are raised with us.

We can only consider supporting pardon or clemency pleas in three very specific situations: where there are compelling compassionate circumstances, such as where a prisoner or close family member is chronically ill or dying; in cases of minors detained overseas; and, as a last resort, in cases where we have evidence that seems to point to a miscarriage of justice.

Our commitment to consular confidentiality and the Data Protection Act prevents us from providing specific examples about the cases of individuals.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on bringing pressure to bear on the Zimbabwe Government to conduct free and fair elections. [213845]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discussed the elections in Zimbabwe with other Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers at the European Council from 19-20 June. Ministers are in regular contact with EU counterparts to discuss the situation in Zimbabwe and, in particular, the state-sponsored violence and intimidation which have marked the current electoral process.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on Afghanistan, what the breakdown is of the unit cost of £250,000 for a member of his Department's staff to be based in Afghanistan. [212455]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The annual cost of a DFID Afghanistan UK member of staff based in Afghanistan varies according to grade. The average annual cost is £240,643, which includes start up and end of tour costs, security, salary, pension contributions and national insurance payments, hardship and cost of living allowances, travel and accommodation costs.

The breakdown is as follows:

	£
Security	96,072
Salary, pension and NI	62,471
Allowances (including travel)	40,600
Accommodation	21,400
Start up and end of tour costs	20,100
Total	240,643

Due to efficiency savings the unit cost of security has fallen since the original estimate, which was based on average costs over 2007. This has resulted in an approximate saving of £10,000.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the Government plan to allocate to the Afghanistan reconstruction plan agreed at the Paris conference; and if he will make a statement. [213324]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In recognition of the scale of the development and stabilisation challenges that continue to face Afghanistan, the UK Government will provide over £800 million to Afghanistan in support to the five-year period of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), between 2008-09 and 2012-13. This includes a further £613 million in reconstruction and development assistance in addition to the £500 million we committed at the London Conference in January 2006. This brings the amount pledged or spent by the UK on reconstruction and development assistance to Afghanistan since 2001 to over £1.65 billion.

Africa: Health Professions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is considering for implementing the March 2008 Global Health Workforce Alliance Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action; and if he will make a statement. [213272]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action call on bilateral leaders to provide co-ordinated and coherent support to formulate and implement comprehensive country health work force strategies and plans; to provide dependable, sustained and adequate financial support; and to give high priority and adequate funding to train and recruit sufficient health personnel from within their own country.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provides flexible funding to back national plans and priorities and to help strengthen health systems as a whole in the countries in which it works. UK health spend in developing countries was £750 million in 2006-07 Addressing the shortage of health workers in these countries is a high priority. The UK Government are also making a concerted effort to mobilise the international community to take action to address the global shortage of health workers.

The UK has had a code of practice for several years governing the international recruitment of health workers. We are now working with the Global Health Workforce Alliance towards a global code of practice. The UK has over the last few years increased the numbers of its own health professionals through new recruitment and training and getting previously qualified staff back to work in the national health service (NHS).

Asia: Unemployment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate his Department has made of the level of youth unemployment in western and central Asia; and what steps his Department is taking to tackle joblessness in western and central Asian countries as a contribution towards the achievement of millennium development goal 8. [212714]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the achievement of the millennium development goals, including goal 8 and the new target 1.B, focusing on full and productive employment and decent work for all. DFID assistance programmes recognise that in southern and central Asia, youth unemployment is approximately twice that of adult unemployment[1], requiring specific measures to stimulate growth.

In the short term, DFID supports a number of programmes that provide employment and income generation opportunities. These focus on the poorest, youth, women and disadvantaged groups—helping them take the first steps out of poverty. In Afghanistan, DFID has provided £18 million for the National Emergency Employment Programme, creating 5.8 million labour-days of employment. In India, DFID finances five major programmes that support rural employment with a total budget of £152.5 million. For example the Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (phase 1 £16.6 million, 2004-07; phase 2 £45 million 2007-12) works with the Government's National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (NREGS) and has already helped 66,400 households in tribal areas. In Nepal, DFID's Rural Access Programme has created almost seven million labour days for over 100,000 people, through labour intensive rural infrastructure development and an additional £27.5 million has just been approved for follow on programmes that, with other donors, will provide an additional 22.3 million days of employment.

DFID is also involved in a number of programmes that more directly promote employment. For example in the Kyrgyz Republic, we are supporting the National Village Investment Programme, which has created over 5,000 jobs. In Nepal we have supported a UN programme that has helped 25,000 entrepreneurs from poor and excluded groups. This has increased the participants' incomes threefold, lifting them out of poverty. In Bangladesh, we also provide £11.8 million to the Katalyst Programme, which supports the private sector to develop small to medium enterprises, aiming to create around 730,000 jobs by 2013.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of departmental property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212867]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development does not have detailed records for the last 10 years; the earliest detailed data we have are for the calendar year 2002.

Capital investment since 2002, by year and project, was as follows:

Country	*Description*	*Year purchased*	*Purchase cost (£)*
Malawi	House purchases	2002	350,000.00
Malawi	House purchase	2004	51,724.00
Yemen	New embassy in Sanaa	2005	425,000.00
Uganda	New Office in Uganda	2007	2,916,003.00
Ethiopia	New office building	2007	1,078,125.00
Zambia	House purchase	2008	£401,762.00
Yemen	House purchase	2008	56,499.00

Refurbishment projects since 2002, by year and project, were as follows:

Country	*Description*	*Year purchased*	*Cost (£)*
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2002	3,004,699.00
India	Office refurbishment	2002	24,339.00
South Africa	Office refurbishment	2002	2,747.00
Italy—Rome	Office refurbishment	2002	5,703.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2002	23,545.00
South Africa	Office refurbishment	2003	2,761.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2003	1,509,169.00
Italy—Rome	Office refurbishment	2003	20,244.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2003	9,433,797.00
India	Office refurbishment	2003	4,376.00
Bangladesh	Office refurbishment	2004	408,979.56
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2004	264,302.00
Ethiopia	Office refurbishment	2004	16,352.00
Barbados	Office refurbishment	2004	32,559.00
Yemen	Office refurbishment	2004	5,393.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2004	3,805,677.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2004	17,694.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2005	414,987.87
Nigeria	Office refurbishment	2005	52,164.00
Bangladesh	Office refurbishment	2005	26,981.00
Barbados	Office refurbishment	2005	15,113.00
Pakistan	Office refurbishment	2005	603,224.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2005	893,763.00
Dem Rep of Congo	Office refurbishment	2005	391,890.00

Country	*Description*	*Year purchased*	*Cost (£)*
Malawi	House refurbishments	2005	38,206.00
Sudan	Office refurbishment	2005	76,028.00
Sierra Leone	Office refurbishment	2005	151,327.00
Dem Rep of Congo	Office refurbishment	2006	27,616.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2006	3,274.00
Pakistan	Office refurbishment	2006	1,188,958.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2006	58,774.00
Sierra Leone	Office refurbishment	2006	22,219.00
Kosovo	Office refurbishment	2006	22,915.00
Afghanistan	House refurbishments	2006	151,248.00
Bolivia	Office refurbishment	2006	6,211.00
Sudan	Office refurbishment	2006	646,499.00
Cambodia	Office refurbishment	2006	45,011.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2006	18,206.00
Bangladesh	Office refurbishment	2006	58,511.00
Nicaragua	Office refurbishment	2006	58,221.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2006	99,211.00
Jamaica	Office refurbishment	2006	5,196.00
Rwanda	House refurbishments	2006	4,058.00
Sierra Leone	Office refurbishment	2007	60,541.00
Afghanistan	House refurbishments	2007	323,230.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2007	43,497.00
Rwanda	House refurbishments	2007	74,319.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2007	70,565.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2007	45,065.00
Zambia	Office refurbishment	2007	16,160.00
Cambodia	House refurbishments	2007	16,000.00
Nicaragua	Office refurbishment	2007	6,342.00
Jamaica	Office refurbishment	2007	37,306.00
Ghana	Office refurbishment	2007	4,764.00
South Africa	Office refurbishment	2007	24,753.00
Ethiopia	Office refurbishment	2007	59,396.00
South Africa	Office refurbishment	2007	17,483.00
Nepal	Office refurbishment	2007	42,513.00
Sudan	Office refurbishment	2007	1,385,845.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2007	111,909.00
Nigeria	Office refurbishment	2007	4,257.00
Ghana	Office refurbishment	2007	5,317.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2008	1,204.00
UK—Abercrombie House	Office refurbishment	2008	62,771.00
Indonesia	Office refurbishment	2008	3,055.00
Burma	Office refurbishment	2008	28,139.00
Sudan	Office refurbishment	2008	376,570.00
Malawi	House refurbishments	2008	20,390.00
UK—Palace Street	Office refurbishment	2008	211,434.00
Cambodia	House refurbishments	2008	1,140.00
South Africa	Office refurbishment	2008	26,919.00
Nepal	Office refurbishment	2008	29,520.00
Dem Rep of Congo	Office refurbishment	2008	351,984.00
Zambia	House refurbishments	2008	11,879.00

Developing Countries: Solar Power

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential of concentrating solar power technology to assist the fulfilment of the millennium development goals in the middle east and North Africa. [213843]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the use of concentrating solar power technology where appropriate as part of low carbon development ways to achieve millennium development goals (MDGs). DFID has not made a direct assessment of the potential of concentrating solar power technology to assist the fulfilment of the MDGs in the middle east and north Africa.

DFID provides core funds to key multilateral institutions including the European Commission, World Bank, International Finance Corporation and the European Investment Bank. These multilaterals are best placed to assist the region given their extensive experience and expertise in renewable energy, and the large financial resources they can provide directly and lever from others. For example, the World Bank has conducted an assessment of the World Bank/global environment facility strategy for the market development of concentrating solar thermal power, and is currently supporting solar thermal projects in Morocco and Egypt. The European Commission's Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) is currently conducting a feasibility study for a concentrated solar power plant in Tunisia.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Funding

7. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Democratic Unionist Party about funding for Northern Ireland. [212549]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular meetings with all the Northern Ireland political parties covering a range of issues relating to Northern Ireland, including funding.

Security

8. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [212550]

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the security situation in Northern Ireland. [212766]

Mr. Woodward: While the latest IMC report indicated that PIRA remain fully committed to pursuing the political path, the threat from dissident republicans is, as the Chief Constable indicated, at its highest level for five years. Loyalists continue to make progress, but the issue of decommissioning remains unresolved. As I indicated recently, legal routes to decommissioning and the protection that comes with them cannot remain indefinitely.

Historical Enquiries Team

9. **Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made by the Historical Enquiries Team in reviewing unsolved murder cases in Northern Ireland. [212552]

Paul Goggins: The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) have opened 1,150 of the 3,268 eligible cases and of these 363 have been completed. The majority of families engaging with HET have found the process helpful and they have welcomed the opportunity to have often long standing questions addressed.

Defence Estates Sales

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are for the proceeds of defence estates sales to accrue to the Northern Ireland Executive. [212553]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are committed to working with the Executive to ensure that disused military sites are effectively disposed of and developed.

Sesame Tree

11. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will meet Sesame Tree to discuss its work. [212554]

Paul Goggins: I have no current plans to meet with Sesame Tree, the Northern Ireland version of Sesame Street. Culture and community relations are transferred matters and are now the responsibility of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Domestic Abuse: Women Pensioners

12. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the levels of domestic abuse and violence against women pensioners in Northern Ireland. [212555]

Paul Goggins: In 2007-08, 165 women aged over 60 years reported domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Office continues to work in partnership with local Ministers to tackle domestic violence at every level.

McGurk's Bar Bombing

14. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the Historical Enquiries Team into the McGurk's Bar bombing. [212557]

Mr. Woodward: The House will want to recognise the personal pain for the hon. Gentleman and his family; I know he lost his great uncle in the bombing. Although I cannot speak for those Ministers who made statements at the time, I personally am sorry for the hurt that was made worse by the erroneous reporting of responsibility for the explosion.

IRA Army Council

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the process of dismantling the IRA Army Council. [212547]

Mr. Woodward: I am sure that everybody looks forward to the day when all vestiges of Northern Ireland's paramilitary history, including the Army Council, have been relegated to where they belong—the past.

Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of assault in which the victim was *(a)* a female partner, *(b)* a male partner, *(c)* a child and *(d)* one of their own children in each of the last three years. [211335]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Northern Ireland conviction data do not include victim information in relation to the commission of an offence, therefore it is not possible to determine the number of convictions for assault of a female or male partner or the total number of convictions for assault of a child irrespective of relationship to the offender.

A wider range of information on the incidence and impact of domestic violence is available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/experience_of_domestic_violence_findings_from_the_2005_northern_ireland_crime_survey.pdf

and from PSNI Statistics at

http://www.psni.police.uk/2._domestic_incidents_and crimes-5.pdf.

It is possible to give the number of convictions for those offences which, in their definition, refer to a child or children. These are 'common assault on child or young person' and 'aggravated assault on male child'.

The data provided in the following table cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions for assault of a child 2004-06[1]

	Convictions
2004	12
2005	8
2006	7

[1] Data do not include sexual offences against a child or children.

Northern Ireland Executive

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland First Minister on Government funding of the Northern Ireland Executive. [212551]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular discussions with the First Minister and deputy First Minister covering a range of issues relating to Northern Ireland, including finance.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in the police investigation into the whereabouts of the 25 million missing child benefit records. [196891]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer made today.

Construction Industry Scheme: Complaints

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about online payments under the construction industry scheme were received by HM Revenue and Customs between April 2007 and March 2008. [213376]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect specific information on complaints about online payments made under the construction industry scheme.

Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on data protection, on how many occasions official advice has been sought of data guardians since their introduction. [211888]

Jane Kennedy: Details on the number of requests made to data guardians for advice are not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on data protection, how many hours of security training each data guardian has received. [211889]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1938W.

HMRC has continued to monitor the data guardians' training needs since their introduction, and will reflect these in any future training events.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on data protection, on how many occasions data guardians have reported insufficient *(a)* security procedures and *(b)* attention paid to security procedures in place. [212125]

Jane Kennedy: Information is not available in the format requested.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213412]

Angela Eagle: The accounting policy regarding revaluation of building estate is disclosed in note 1.4 of the Treasury's annual report and accounts 2006-07 (HC 518). Copies of this document can be found at:

hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement; [213133]

(2) what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213153]

Angela Eagle: All successful applicants for posts in HM Treasury are required to undergo appropriate security vetting procedures, including criminal record checks. The other detailed information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for North Shropshire of 14 May, on corporation tax. [213123]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 24 June 2008.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices have been closed in *(a)* urban areas and *(b)* rural areas since 1997. [213618]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not maintain office records categorised by urban and rural areas as they are not standard property management classifications.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first told of the loss of a data cartridge in the Cardiff office of HM Revenue and Customs containing the details of 6,500 people. [176941]

Jane Kennedy: The loss of the data cartridge was formally reported to senior managers in HMRC on 29 October 2007 and Ministers were first informed of the loss at the beginning of November 2007 by the former Chairman of HMRC.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent additional training has been provided to staff in HM Revenue and Customs to assist them in implementing revised data security policies and procedures. [201680]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1937-38W, which explained that each HMRC business unit has appointed a data guardian to monitor its data handling and transfer arrangements. Support has already been provided to these data guardians in the form of awareness events, written material and access to HMRC security specialists. HMRC will continue to assess the data guardians' ongoing training requirements.

HMRC is also currently part way through a programme of mandatory half-day data security training and awareness workshops. Current plans envisage every single member of the Department having attended a workshop before the end of June.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what additional funding has been provided to HM Revenue and Customs for the implementation of the revised data security procedures introduced in the wake of the child benefit data loss; [201681]

(2) what additional *(a)* funding and *(b)* staffing will be required to implement revised data security policies and procedures in HM Revenue and Customs following the child benefit data loss; and what (i) secure storage facilities and (ii) other measures will be required for that implementation. [201858]

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of implementation of data security policies and procedures introduced by HM Revenue and Customs following the loss of child benefit data. [202905]

Jane Kennedy: All costs incurred to date have been contained within HMRC's existing funding allocations. These costs have arisen from the range of measures HMRC has introduced since November 2007 to enhance its data security procedures, and are highlighted in Kieran Poynter's final report published today. A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net change has been in the number of full-time equivalent HM Revenue and Customs posts within each parliamentary constituency since 1997. [213616]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings HM Revenue and Customs expects to make from the closure of Chorley HM Revenue and Customs office and the movement of staff; and what the annual running cost was of the HMRC offices in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Bolton, *(c)* Southport and *(d)* Blackburn in the most recent period for which figures are available. [212285]

Jane Kennedy: Most of HMRC's business units, including those with staff currently employed in Chorley, can operate more effectively by co-locating teams in a smaller number of locations, allowing more efficient work processes to be introduced. There will be some specific costs attached to the relocation of staff from one office to another, but the efficiency savings resulting from HMRC's overall restructuring cannot be realistically apportioned to individual offices.

The fixed accommodation running costs for the offices at Lingmell House Chorley, Stone Cross House Bolton, Dukes House Southport and Chaucer's Walk Blackburn are as follows:

Total cash running costs (net of VAT), 2007-08

Office	£
Chorley	203,739.32
Bolton	633,835.98
Southport	343,815.60
Blackburn	299,890.68

These costs are made up of the facility price (FP) for the provision (by Mapeley) of the serviced accommodation at these addresses, the business rates, services and the utilities for each year.

Individual business units are allocated budgets to meet their total costs and overheads for all their staff. The Chorley HMRC office currently houses staff from four different business units and to break down the costs of each business unit to individual office level could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Peterhead

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect taxes was (i) collected and (ii) administered by the HM Revenue and Customs office in Peterhead in each year since 1997. [213085]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie) on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 258W.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were based at HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations' office in Peterhead in each year since 1997. [213086]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (previously the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise) have not retained records of the staff numbers at Peterhead before the 1 April 2002.

The staff in post figures for Keith House, Peterhead, for the last seven years is shown in the following table.

Date as at 1 April each year	*Full-time equivalent*	*Headcount*
2008	18.4	18
2007	17.59	20
2006	20.2	23
2005	23.5	26
2004	21.34	23
2003	24.6	27
2002	28.01	29

Share Fishermen

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which HM Revenue and Customs offices the Share Fisherman's Scheme is administered; and how much duty was collected from this scheme in each of the last five years, broken down by location. [213084]

Jane Kennedy: The Share Fisherman's Scheme is administered by two HM Revenue and Customs' offices: for England, Wales and Northern Ireland it is administered by a fishing unit based in Newton Abbot and for Scotland by a fishing unit based in Peterhead.

Payments received under the scheme in the last five years are as follows:

£

	England, Wales and NI	*Scotland*
2003	924,330	8,784,956
2004	1,149,963	5,254,087
2005	1,510,180	4,636,486
2006	1,594,124	4,804,904
2007	1,924,492	4,540,353

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there have been data security breaches at the Valuation Office Agency in the last 36 months. [176404]

Jane Kennedy: Details of information management procedures at the Valuation Office Agency, including any incidents related to protected personal data since 2004, will be included in the Agency's annual report for 2007-08 which will be published shortly.

Valuation Office: Digital Mapping

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on the Valuation Office: digital mapping, for what reasons the agency no longer plays an active role in the development of the digital national framework; and when it stopped playing an active role. [213577]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency ('VOA') switched from an active role in the development of the digital national framework ('DNF') to becoming a correspondence member in August 2005. Since that time VOA and Ordnance Survey have developed a closer working relationship, addressing VOA requirements that had previously been fulfilled by attendance at the DNF expert group meetings.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints about tax credits have been dealt with by the Adjudicator's Office in each of the last two years; and of those how many took *(a)* over six months but less than one year and *(b)* more than one year to resolve; [213585]

(2) what the average length of time taken by the Adjudicator's Office to complete an investigation of a complaint regarding tax credits has been in each year since the inception of tax credits. [213587]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not hold this specific information in the requested format.

The Adjudicator, who acts as a fair and unbiased referee looking into complaints about HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), including the Tax Credit Office (TCO), keeps their own information on the complaints they deal with.

Available information on the Adjudicator's Office is published in her annual reports which are available at: www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/publications.htm The Adjudicator expects to publish her 2008 report in July 2008.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that Tax Credit offices do not continue to demand recovery of disputed over-payments from families whilst the Adjudicator's Office is investigating the dispute. [213586]

Jane Kennedy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1491W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Breast Cancer

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many breast cancer cases were diagnosed in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years; and how many deaths from breast cancer there were in each year. [212811]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many breast cancer cases were diagnosed, and how many deaths from breast cancer there were, in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years. [212811]

The most recent available figures for cancer incidence are for 2005. Figures requested are given in Table 1. The most recent available figures for cancer deaths are for 2006. Figures requested are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], by sex and strategic health authority, 1995 to 2005

SHA	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Male											
England	213	196	229	258	259	215	229	254	289	272	250
North East	7	6	11	10	13	9	16	17	15	14	17
North West	29	30	31	30	24	30	29	32	35	36	35
Yorkshire and the Humber	20	19	23	24	30	22	14	17	31	30	20
East Midlands	9	14	17	19	12	9	8	22	26	24	18
West Midlands	26	17	20	36	27	27	31	29	26	29	23
East of England	31	21	32	31	26	22	29	24	28	38	21
London	24	26	26	31	31	32	24	33	37	24	41
South East Coast	21	15	20	22	30	21	16	20	21	27	21
South Central	21	19	18	19	23	14	27	16	22	21	19
South West	25	29	31	36	43	29	35	44	48	29	35
Female											
England	30,820	31,452	33,480	33,856	35,425	34,712	35,315	35,149	37,283	36,938	38,212
North East	1,368	1,543	1,546	1,683	1,668	1,698	1,746	1,729	1,944	1,960	1,968
North West	4,277	4,241	4,290	4,547	4,647	4,734	4,948	4,823	5,004	5,232	5,323
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,935	2,980	3,172	3,145	3,420	3,396	3,437	3,457	3,725	3,662	3,844
East Midlands	2,477	2,577	2,620	2,765	2,967	2,986	3,004	3,046	3,296	3,521	3,375
West Midlands	3,254	3,323	3,517	3,619	3,662	3,739	3,746	3,839	3,991	3,984	4,224
East of England	3,464	3,554	4,015	3,838	4,048	3,870	3,888	3,964	4,122	4,035	4,310
London	3,985	3,996	4,352	4,222	4,208	4,114	4,115	4,104	4,306	3,838	4,139
South East Coast	3,039	2,965	3,324	3,257	3,189	3,221	3,318	3,188	3,300	3,173	3,282
South Central	2,544	2,743	2,736	2,756	2,938	2,841	2,768	2,806	3,015	2,975	3,128
South West	3,477	3,530	3,908	4,024	4,678	4,143	4,345	4,193	4,580	4,558	4,619

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10)

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, by sex and strategic health authority (SHA)[1], 1996 to 2006[2]

SHA	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Male											
England	63	66	73	62	68	77	79	64	53	78	59
North East	5	3	4	3	2	2	7	6	2	3	5
North West	6	7	7	12	7	10	8	7	6	6	9
Yorkshire and the Humber	5	9	9	9	6	7	7	5	8	5	6
East Midlands	4	7	5	7	3	15	12	4	7	10	7
West Midlands	9	4	12	8	13	10	9	8	3	13	9
East of England	6	10	9	4	7	5	8	9	6	8	4
London	6	8	8	9	4	11	9	9	5	11	9
South East Coast	5	7	9	4	9	6	8	1	6	9	2
South Central	6	2	1	3	7	4	7	8	3	7	2
South West	11	9	9	3	10	7	4	7	7	6	6
Female											
England	11,471	11,255	11,025	10,803	10,631	10,860	10,795	10,501	10,288	10,297	10,243
North East	575	607	567	542	516	555	508	471	522	550	527
North West	1,595	1,548	1,480	1,538	1,455	1,539	1,497	1,418	1,374	1,385	1,394
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,204	1,067	1,005	1,052	1,017	1,050	1,043	1,009	1,040	956	1,004
East Midlands	1,066	987	917	900	893	984	908	912	891	929	918
West Midlands	1,322	1,271	1,193	1,213	1,137	1,100	1,187	1,149	1,143	1,090	1,102
East of England	1,225	1,263	1,363	1,192	1,241	1,229	1,278	1,241	1,150	1,224	1,202
London	1,440	1,436	1,336	1,322	1,335	1,332	1,306	1,296	1,235	1,182	1,155
South East Coast	1,014	972	1,017	1,008	983	1,027	1,041	986	983	1,009	1,025
South Central	802	823	912	862	813	817	798	798	788	776	746
South West	1,288	1,281	1,235	1,174	1,241	1,227	1,229	1,221	1,162	1,196	1,170

[1] Breast cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 174 and 175 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for the years 2001 to 2006. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 had a significant effect on mortality rates for some diseases, causing a discontinuity in mortality trends for these causes of death. However ONS practice is not to adjust the historical numbers of deaths shown in PQ answers. More information on this issue can be found at www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality. For female breast cancer the introduction of ICD-10 caused an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the number of deaths. An article specifically examining the changes for cancer trends was published in Health Statistics Quarterly 23*. This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for the most common cancer sites.

* Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 23, 7-17

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of female deaths were caused by *(a)* breast and *(b)* cervical cancer in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years. [212812]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of female deaths were caused by (a) breast and (b) cervical cancer in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years. (212812)

The table attached provides the percentage of female deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, by strategic health authority in England, for 1996 to 2006 (the latest year available). The corresponding figures for cervical cancer were less than one per cent of deaths in all cases.

Table 1: Percentage of female deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death, strategic health authorities (SHAs)[1], 1996 to 2006[2]

SHA	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
North West	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
East Midlands	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
West Midlands	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
East of England	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
London	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
South East Coast	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
South Central	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
South West	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
England	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

[1] Breast cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 174 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for the years 2001 to 2006.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Construction: Manpower

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the construction industry in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [213030]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the construction industry in (a) 2007 and (b) 2008. (213030)

The definitive source for the number of people employed is normally the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, because of the interest in the construction sector an estimate has been compiled from the Workforce Jobs Series.

While estimates of the number of recruitments are not available explicitly, figures from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in jobs from year to year.

The number of people employed in the construction industry in March 2007 was 2.21 million and the number employed in March 2008, the latest estimate available, was 2.22 million. Workforce Job statistics are published as part of the Labour Market Statistics First Release. The latest estimates can be found in Table 5(2) and can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=1944

As with any survey, results from the Workforce Jobs Series are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Death: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of *(a)* the overall mortality rate and *(b)* the cigarette smoking-related mortality rate in (i) Leeds West constituency and (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District in each of the last five years. [213359]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of (a) the overall mortality rate and (b) cigarette smoking-related mortality rate in (i) Leeds West constituency and (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District in each of the last five years. (213359)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rates for (i) Leeds West parliamentary constituency, for 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available) and (ii) Leeds metropolitan district, for 2001 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Deaths related to cigarette smoking cannot be directly estimated, as smoking status is not included on the death certificate. However, research published by the then Health Development Agency in 2004 suggested that, in the period 1998-2002, some 17 per cent. of all deaths in England were attributable to smoking.[1]

[1] Twigg L, Moon G, Walker S (2004) The smoking epidemic in England. London: Health Development Agency

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] all-cause mortality. Leeds West parliamentary constituency (i) and Leeds metropolitan district (ii), 2001-06[2,3]

		Rate per 100,000
Year	(i) Leeds West	(ii) Leeds
2001	728	683
2002	770	681
2003	717	672
2004	707	637
2005	685	626
2006		607

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster over what period the Cabinet Office depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213213]

Phil Hope: The Department's most recent depreciation and amortisation policies in respect of tangible and intangible fixed assets are published in the Cabinet Office annual report and resource accounts 2006-07, available in the House of Commons Library.

The 2007-08 Cabinet Office annual report and accounts are expected to be published shortly before the summer 2008 recess.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [213678]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 124W.

The Cabinet Office has not incurred any expenditure on art.

The Cabinet Office spent the following on new vehicles.

Financial year	New vehicles (£)
2004-05	37,050.00
2005-06	0.00
2006-07	0.00

Drownings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many persons aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18 and *(c)* over 18 years drowned in (i) public swimming pools, (ii) private swimming pools, (iii) garden ponds and (iv) public lakes and ponds in each of the last five years. [212219]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from drowning in (a) public swimming pools, (b) private swimming pools, (c) garden ponds and (d) public lakes and ponds in each of the last five years, broken down by persons aged (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 18 and (iii) over 18 years. (212219)

The most recent figures available are for deaths registered in 2006. The table below contains the number of deaths due to drowning, for the age groups requested, from 2002 to 2006 in England and Wales.

Drowning deaths may be identified by intent, for example, intentional self-harm, assault, undetermined intent, accidental drowning. Of these, only the last category allows deaths to be identified by place of drowning (bath-tub, swimming-pool, natural water). Coroners, however, are not asked to provide specific information on place of drowning, and so the information recorded at the Office for National Statistics will be partial. For this reason, figures for the place of death categories requested cannot be provided.

Number of deaths by drowning,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2002-06[3]

				Age group
	All ages	Under 16	16-18	Over 18
2002	500	38	16	446
2003	506	37	14	455
2004	468	26	13	429
2005	487	39	23	425
2006	487	33	15	439

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, code T75.1

[2] Includes non-residents

[3] Deaths registered in each calendar year

Employment: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people in Islwyn constituency were in education, employment or training in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; [212690]

(2) how many people under the age of 30 years in Islwyn constituency were recorded as being in full-time employment in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [212691]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions. The first asks how many people under the age of 30 years in Islwyn constituency were recorded as being in full-time employment in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007 (212691). The second asks how many people in Islwyn constituency were in education, employment or training in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007. (212690)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people under the age of 30 years, resident in the Islwyn constituency, who were in full-time employment in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007. Table 2, attached, shows the number of people of working age, that is women aged 16 to 59 or men aged 16 to 64, who were in full-time or part-time education, employment or training in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007 resident in the Islwyn constituency. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for the 12 months ending in February 1997 and from the APS for the 12 month ending in September 2007, which is the most recent period for which estimates are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of persons in full-time employment under the age of 30 in Islwyn constituency in 1997 and 2007

12 months ending	Number (Thousand)
February 1997	7
September 2007	5

Table 2: Number of persons in education, employment or training in Islwyn constituency in 1997 and 2007

12 months ending	Number (Thousand)
February 1997	31
September 2007	32

Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:
Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Income: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average annual income has been in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* Leeds West constituency in each year since 2000. [209745]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average annual income has been in, *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District, and *(c)* Leeds West Constituency in each year since 2000. (209745)

Table 1 shows the average net weekly equivalised household income for Yorkshire and Humberside, both before and after housing costs, at 2004-05 prices, since 2000-01, 2002-03. These figures are based on the Department for Work and Pensions' Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series which is produced using the Family Resources Survey. It is not possible to present results from the HBAI series below the level of Government Office Regions. While HBAI more commonly presents median incomes, mean incomes are also shown here in order to be more comparable with the mean incomes shown for Leeds West Constituency and Leeds Metropolitan District.

Table 2 shows average net weekly equivalised household incomes for Leeds West and Leeds Metropolitan District, before and after housing costs, for the year 2004-05 (in 200-05 prices). These are based on experimental small area statistics published by the ONS (see background notes). Figures for other years are unavailable.

Equivalised household incomes are used as a proxy for living standards. Incomes are equivalised to account for household size and composition, and the members of each household are assumed to benefit equally from the household's income. Average household incomes are calculated by assigning the household income to all members of the household, and averaging among individuals.

It should be borne in mind that the Government Office Region statistics and the small area statistics are based on different methodologies. It is not possible to separate out methodological differences from real differences. Small differences or changes over time should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in Yorkshire and Humberside, at 2004-05 prices[1] [2] [3]2000-01 to 2006-07[4]

£ per week

	Before housing costs[5]		After housing costs[5]	
	Median income	Mean income	Median income	Mean income
2000-01 to 2002-03	308	374	262	321
2001-02 to 2003-04	317	380	272	328
2002-03 to 2004-05	322	380	279	332
2003-04 to 2005-06	322	377	280	332
2004-05 to 2006-07	328	381	298	332

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax.

[2] Yorkshire and Humberside as defined by Government office region.

[3] All figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.

[4] Three-year averages have been presented, as single year estimates would be subject to volatility.

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:
Households Below Average Income', Department for Work and Pensions.

Table 2: Average net weekly equivalised household income for Leeds West constituency and Leeds Metropolitan District 2004-05[1] [2]

£ per week

	Mean income (before housing costs)[3]	Mean income (after housing costs)[3]
Leeds West Constituency	340	290
Leeds Metropolitan District	400	350

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.

[3] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

[4] These estimates are based on experimental small area statistics (see background notes).

Source:
Office for National Statistics and Department for Work and Pensions.

Intelligence Services: Vetting

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, on how many occasions in the last 12 months security sections have been notified that the spouse or partner of an officer in the intelligence and security services has been working in the sex industry; on how many such occasions the notification was made *(a)* by the officer concerned and *(b)* following a formal review; and if he will make a statement. [211062]

Edward Miliband: Information concerning security vetting cases is not held centrally. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on individual cases.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the life expectancy was of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire, (iii) the North West Region and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [212617]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy was of (a) men and (b) women in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire, (iii) the North West Region and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. (212617)

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for (i) all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, (ii) government office regions in England, and (iii) the UK, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2004-06, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Life expectancy figures at county level are not readily available.

Lone Parents: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in *(a)* Cleethorpes, *(b)* Great Grimsby, *(c)* north-east Lincolnshire and *(d)* north Lincolnshire. [212835]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in (a) Cleethorpes, (b) Great Grimsby, (c) North East Lincolnshire and (d) North Lincolnshire. (212835)

The number of lone parent families in the UK with children under 16 can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The table below shows 2007 estimates for the requested geographic areas.

	Number of lone parent families with children under 16 (Thousand)
Cleethorpes	2
Great Grimsby	4
North East Lincolnshire	5
North Lincolnshire	6

Note:
Cleethorpes and Great Grimsby are parliamentary constituencies North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire are unitary authorities
Source:
LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted

Official Secrets Act

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what provisions are in place to deter people who have not signed the Official Secrets Act from reading documents classified only to be read by people who have signed the Act; and what steps may be taken against any such people who do read such documents without authorisation. [212252]

Edward Miliband: Government information bearing a classification may only be passed to those individuals who have a need to know and, where necessary, hold the appropriate security clearance.

While there is no requirement for individuals to sign the Official Secrets Act, the provisions of the Act are drawn to the attention of Crown servants on appointment.

Under the Act, it is an offence to disclose official information in certain specified categories and, for most of those categories, when the disclosure is damaging. The provisions of the Act apply to Crown servants and Government contractors, and to members of the public who have, or have had, official information in their possession.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years; and how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in each year. [212813]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed, and how many deaths from prostate cancer there were, in each strategic health authority region in each of the last 11 years. (212813)

The most recent available figures for cancer incidence are for 2005. Figures requested are given in Table 1 below. The most recent available figures for cancer deaths are for 2006. Figures requested are given in Table 2 below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, by Strategic health authority, 1995 to 2005

SHA	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	19,473	19,866	19,878	20,375	22,203	24,256	27,380	27,672	27,777	29,406	28,886
North East	771	861	887	1,063	1,229	1,243	1,407	1,389	1,475	1,321	1,403
Northwest	2,733	2,839	2,554	2,626	2,843	3,096	3,651	3,525	3,637	4,468	4,293
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,730	1,784	1,857	1,818	1,923	2,372	2,631	2,598	2,639	2,909	2,729
East Midlands	1,495	1,601	1,465	1,531	1,747	1,939	2,115	2,136	2,090	2,415	2,619
West Midlands	2,035	2,144	2,085	2,247	2,411	2,723	3,076	3,235	3,249	3,377	3,350
East of England	2,283	2,396	2,247	2,266	2,609	2,938	3,192	3,270	3,194	3,164	3,453
London	2,449	2,400	2,593	2,661	2,742	2,797	3,074	3,115	3,062	3,012	2,875
South East Coast	2,078	1,889	2,081	1,997	2,225	2,289	2,441	2,302	2,270	2,268	2,317
South Central	1,543	1,549	1,480	1,632	1,808	2,038	2,349	2,361	2,334	2,484	2,169
South West	2,356	2,403	2,629	2,534	2,666	2,821	3,444	3,741	3,827	3,988	3,678

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10)
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, males, by strategic health authority[1], 1996 to 2006[2]

SHA	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	8,256	7,982	8,074	8,015	7,761	8,305	8,471	8,570	8,531	8,492	8,506
North East	356	368	386	374	352	383	413	401	457	392	466
North West	1,045	1,031	1,047	1,041	1,064	1,127	1,077	1,053	1,062	1,109	1,016
Yorkshire and the Humber	801	810	755	789	770	756	784	890	856	795	858
East Midlands	702	701	694	678	685	687	732	781	762	755	757
West Midlands	865	851	884	865	835	955	910	948	930	889	960
East of England	948	870	894	905	905	997	1,074	1,000	1,017	1,015	1,040
London	970	878	891	910	798	930	929	890	939	953	850
South East Coast	882	832	851	831	779	830	883	896	766	804	811
South Central	633	602	625	632	567	620	643	638	665	652	681
South West	1,054	1,039	1,047	990	1,006	1,020	1,026	1,073	1,077	1,128	1,067

[1] Prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 for the years 2001 to 2006. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 had a significant effect on mortality rates for some diseases, causing a discontinuity in mortality trends for these causes of death. However ONS practice is not to adjust the historical numbers of deaths shown in PQ answers. More information on this issue can be found at www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality. For prostate cancer, the introduction of ICD-10 caused an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the number of deaths. An article specifically examining the changes for cancer trends was published in Health Statistics Quarterly 23*. This article also presents comparability ratios (the ratio of the number of deaths coded to a cause in ICD-10 to the number coded to the equivalent cause in ICD-9) for the most common cancer sites.

* Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 23, 7-17.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office *(a)* spent in each of the last three years and *(b)* spent in 2008-09 to date on (i) commissioning and (ii) funding the production of television programmes; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213831]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office's central communications unit has neither commissioned nor sponsored any television programmes over this period.

Unemployment: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of households in Cleethorpes constituency had no one in full-time work in each of the last five years. [212841]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many and what proportion of households in Cleethorpes constituency had no one in full-time work in each of the last five years. (212841)

Estimates in the attached table are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). There is currently no annual household dataset, so the figures are given for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release (see web link):

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf

The household datasets (like the main quarterly LFS microdatasets) are weighted to the population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number and proportion of working-age[1] households in Cleethorpes constituency where no-one is in full-time employment 2003-07, April to June of each year

	Levels (Thousand)	*Percentage[2]*
2003	4	22
2004	6	23
2005	9	30
2006	6	21
2007	4	15

[1] A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

[2] In calculating percentages, households with unknown economic status have been excluded.

Notes:

1. Estimates are weighted to the 2003 population estimates.
2. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

LFS household datasets

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213713]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213714]

Phil Hope: The information can be obtained only at disproportionate costs. The Cabinet Office procures timber and timber products in line with UK Government timber procurement policy which requires central Government to actively seek to buy timber and timber products from legal and sustainable sources.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to establish *(a)* academies and *(b)* trust schools in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire. [213642]

Jim Knight: Currently there are no proposals to establish an academy in Chorley. We have agreed with the Lancashire local authority two academy projects in Accrington and Preston, in order to drive up standards in those areas. The establishment of a trust school is a matter for local decision. Three schools in Lancashire have informed the Department of their interest in acquiring trust status and are currently on our Supported Schools Programme to help them to do so. None of these schools is in the Chorley area.

Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants were made by his Department to the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years; for how much in each case; what grants will be made in 2008-09; and for how much in each case. [212626]

Jim Knight: Revenue funding in 2005-06 for Bexley local authority was made up of the Education Formula Share (EFS), Standards Fund, Budget Support Grant, Transitional Support Grant, School Standards Grant and funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); figures for these are provided in the following table. Total and per-pupil revenue funding figures are also provided. Figures are in cash terms.

Bexley local authority	
2005-06 EFS (£ million)	142
2005-06 Other grants (£ million)	32
2005-06 Total (£ million)	174
2005-06 Total per - pupil (£)	4,280

Notes:
1. Price base: Cash.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council.
3. The 'Other Grants' figure includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three-19. These exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.

Rounding: The EFS, other grants and total figures are rounded to the nearest £ million and the total per - pupil figures to the nearest £10.

The figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with 2005-06 figures quoted above because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. This change does not affect the comparability of the other non-DSG grants identified above, although there are some year-on-year changes in terms of what grants were provided.

The 2005-06 figures quoted above are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage from EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06—the basis for the 2005-06 baseline figure quoted in the following table; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. The grants associated with the 2005-06 DSG baseline are the same as those given with the EFS figure above: Standards Fund, Budget Support Grant, Transitional Support Grant, School Standards Grant and LSC funding.

Revenue funding from the DSG, Standards Fund, School Standards Grant, Schools Standards Grant (Personalisation) and the Learning and Skills Council for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 for Bexley local authority are provided in the following table along with the comparable figures based on the 2005-06 DSG baseline. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19 and are in cash terms.

Bexley local authority

	£ million
2005-06 DSG Baseline (£ million)	129
2005-06 Other grants (£ million)	32
2005-06 Total (£ million)	160
2005-06 Total per- pupil (£)	4,060
2006-07 DSG (£ million)	137
2006-07 Other grants (£ million)	33
2006-07 Total (£ million)	170
2006-07 Total per- pupil (£)	4,280
2007-08 DSG (£ million)	145
2007-08 Other grants (£ million)	35
2007-08 Total (£ million)	179
2007-08 Total per- pupil (£)	4,550

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Cash.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19
4. DSG, Other Grants and Total figures have been rounded to the nearest £ million. The total per pupil figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The DSG indicative allocations (these are based on projected pupil numbers whereas the final allocations will be based on actual pupil numbers) and guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (GUF) for 2008-09 for Bexley local authority are shown in the following table.

These figures cover funding through the DSG only; there is funding from the other grants identified above that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised for 2008-09. This covers all funded pupils aged three-15 and is in cash terms (rounded to the nearest £10).

Bexley local authority	
2008-09 DSG Indicative allocations (£ million)	151
2008-09 GUF per- pupil (£)	4150

Notes

1. The revenue funding figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's planned spend.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.
3. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
4. The 2008-09 figures cover funding through the Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG). This figure does not represent the totality of 'education' funding allocated in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised- these are not included in the provided DSG figure.

Children's Centres: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres are operational in Chorley; how many are due to be opened; and how much will be spent on such centres in the next 12 months. [214113]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently five designated Sure Start children's centres in Chorley. By 2010 all communities will have access to a children's centre. Lancashire county council is currently considering how many additional children centres they will need and where these should be located in order to meet this commitment.

The Department has allocated £324,637 in capital and £6,412,037 in revenue funding to Lancashire county council 2008-09. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate funding to individual centres and information on how much has been allocated to the centres in Chorley is not collected centrally.

Class Sizes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil:teacher ratio was in each local education authority at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary level in each year since 1997-98. [213620]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213215]

Kevin Brennan: Details of the period over which the Department depreciates the above assets categories are:

	Years
(a) Vehicles	5 to 8
(b) Computer hardware	3 to 7
(c) Bespoke computer software	3 to 7
(d) Standard computer software	3 to 7
(e) Furniture	7
(f) Telecommunications equipment	3 to 7

This information has been taken from the statement of accounting policies which forms part of the Department's annually published Resource Accounts.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [210946]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The number of domestic flights (one way trips) undertaken by representatives of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in the financial year April 2007 to March 2008 was 1,128. The cost of the flights was £126,460. It is not possible without incurring disproportionate cost to separate the number of flights made by representatives of these two Departments that originally formed the Department for Education and Skills.

(b) The Department has no agencies.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211773]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not hold information on the detail of spend incurred by its agencies and can only provide aggregate spends for the purchase of office furniture, inclusive of chairs desks and other office furnishings for the Department for each of the last four years.

The breakdown of aggregate spends for each of the last four years is:

	Total cost (£)
2004/05	£524,490
2005/06	£315,124
2006/07	£123,703
2007/08	£1,269,169

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212530]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I can however confirm that home working is available to all staff in the Department for Children, Schools and Families and currently 50 per cent. of staff can access the Department's IT infrastructure from home.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many permanent staff within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [210864]

Kevin Brennan: There are currently 21 staff in my Department and its agencies that are classed as without permanent posts. These staff are all actively engaged in delivering a range of departmental projects and duties, while seeking a new permanent post through our Brokerage Service. These staff are known as priority movers and they are given individual tailored support to engage with the internal labour market and find suitable permanent posts.

There are no members of staff in people action teams.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208510]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) spent £3,300 in total on mail overseas across each of our four current HQ buildings for the period 2007-08 using Royal Mail, the only delivery company used. This amounted to 1.1 per cent. of the postal budget for this period. Each HQ building holds autonomous and non-compatible recording systems, some going back further than others so the collation of records dating from 2001 would incur disproportionate costs even if the base information was extant.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* each of its executive agencies. [210887]

Kevin Brennan: The number of building passes reported lost or stolen, for the Department for Children, Schools and Families formerly Department for Skills and Education in the last 24 months amounts to 313. The Department has no Executive agencies.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much sick pay to staff in his Department and its predecessor cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211861]

Kevin Brennan: Due to the wide range of posts and salary points in my Department, the actual cost of sick pay to staff in my Department could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. My Department's general policy for full-time staff is to pay sickness absence on full pay for up to 182 days, followed by sickness absence on half pay for up to 183 days. Sickness absence is unpaid once entitlement to full and/or half pay has been exhausted, unless HR approves payment of sick pay at pension rate.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils taking GCSEs obtained three A*-C passes in separate science subjects in *(a)* the state sector and *(b)* the independent sector in each of the last five years. [214026]

Jim Knight: The information required is in the following table.

	Maintained Schools			*Independent Schools*		
	Number of pupils achieving A-C grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics*	*Number of 15-year-olds*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics*	*Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics*	*Number of 15-year-olds*
2006-07	30,542	5.0	608,125	11,629	24.0	48,537
2005-06	28,283	4.7	600,650	11,558	23.9	48,292
2004-05	25,502	4.3	589,881	11,500	24.5	46,890
2003-04	23,161	3.9	596,602	11,635	24.8	46,958
2002-03	21,046	3.6	577,791	11,434	25.8	44,331

Notes:
1. These figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all maintained and independent schools.
2. Maintained schools include academies and CTCs.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils in each secondary modern or equivalent school in England gained five grade A*-C GCSEs in each year since 2003. [214028]

Jim Knight: The information has been placed in the Library.

Grammar Schools: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at English grammar schools were entitled to free school meals in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [213470]

Jim Knight: The readily available information is given in the table below. Information for each year since 1996-97 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

State funded secondary schools: School meals arrangements: Position in January each year 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2008 (provisional) England

	Grammar schools			State funded secondary schools[1]		
	Number of pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals	Number of pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals
1997[2]	127,780	4,730	3.7	3,052,280	556,250	18.2
1999[2]	140,010	4,320	3.1	3,134,470	527,340	16.8
2002[2]	145,430	3,240	2.2	3,277,100	488,490	14.9
2005[3]	153,270	3,300	2.1	3,349,220	473,470	14.1
2007[3]	156,870	3,140	2.0	3,325,620	445,070	13.4
2008 Provisional[3]	154,420	3,030	2.0	3,293,650	433,010	13.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Also CTCs and academies.
[2] number of pupils include those with sole and dual registration. Excludes boarders.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration. Includes boarders.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
School Census

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the group reviewing the delivery of sex and relationship education is expected to report its recommendations; [213656]

(2) what consultation will be undertaken on the recommendations of the group reviewing the delivery of sex and relationship education. [213657]

Jim Knight: The external steering group which has overseen the review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools is due to present its report and recommendations to DCSF Ministers at the end of July 2008. Ministers will consider the recommendations and respond later in the year.

We do not intend to carry out a public consultation on the group's recommendations. However it may be appropriate to consult more widely on particular action that the Government propose to take as a result of the group's report.

Politics: Curriculum

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision there is in the National Curriculum for teaching on politics and political institutions; and what research he has evaluated on the effects of such teaching in other countries on young people's participation in democratic processes. [213838]

Jim Knight: Citizenship education, which has been compulsory in secondary schools since 2002, makes an important contribution to developing young people's political literacy. It enables them to improve their understanding and develop skills of democratic participation while helping them to appreciate that they have a stake in society. Through Citizenship Education, young people are taught about democratic institutions, processes and the importance of voting. We are keen to encourage active learning so that young people start early to experience democracy in action. We continue to monitor young people's attitudes to participation in the democratic process through UK-based research such as the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER)'s longitudinal study reports and international research such as the International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks Archive (INCA) report which looks at how citizenship education affects participation in 14 different countries.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the level of guaranteed funding per pupil was in each local education authority in each year since 1997-98. [213619]

Jim Knight: The dedicated schools grant (DSG) was introduced in 2006-07 and the guaranteed units of funding per pupil (GUF) from 2006-07 to 2010-11 are provided in the following table. Prior to 2006-07, funding was not allocated through a guaranteed amount per pupil and so figures are not available for 1997-98 to 2005-06. This funding covers all funded pupils aged three to 15. Figures are in cash terms.

Dedicated schools grant

					GUF (£)
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Barking and Dagenham	4,097	4,379	4,563	4,725	4,917
Barnet	4,081	4,344	4,559	4,723	4,917
Barnsley	3,452	3,688	3,848	3,987	4,154
Bath and North East Somerset	3,492	3,715	3,891	4,033	4,204
Bedfordshire	3,407	3,633	3,817	3,961	4,134
Bexley	3,719	3,970	4,151	4,301	4,482
Birmingham	4,000	4,270	4,448	4,605	4,790

Dedicated schools grant

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	GUF (£) 2010-11
Blackburn with Darwen	3,828	4,083	4,254	4,405	4,583
Blackpool	3,573	3,818	3,982	4,125	4,296
Bolton	3,567	3,810	3,978	4,125	4,301
Bournemouth	3,435	3,665	3,825	3,964	4,130
Bracknell Forest	3,590	3,835	4,017	4,177	4,367
Bradford	3,642	3,919	4,107	4,275	4,470
Brent	4,316	4,663	4,894	5,102	5,342
Brighton and Hove	3,692	3,936	4,103	4,249	4,424
Bristol, City of	3,929	4,190	4,366	4,520	4,702
Bromley	3,525	3,775	3,966	4,123	4,311
Buckinghamshire	3,507	3,728	3,899	4,042	4,216
Bury	3,537	3,763	3,926	4,068	4,238
Calderdale	3,520	3,750	3,912	4,053	4,222
Cambridgeshire	3,407	3,623	3,787	3,926	4,093
Camden	5,551	5,923	6,161	6,373	6,618
Cheshire	3,471	3,692	3,880	4,021	4,190
Cornwall	3,362	3,585	3,742	3,879	4,043
Coventry	3,696	3,942	4,110	4,258	4,433
Croydon	3,806	4,080	4,267	4,432	4,627
Cumbria	3,447	3,671	3,831	3,970	4,137
Darlington	3,547	3,782	3,944	4,086	4,255
Derby	3,574	3,814	3,978	4,120	4,291
Derbyshire	3,429	3,649	3,825	3,964	4,130
Devon	3,335	3,551	3,707	3,843	4,005
Doncaster	3,541	3,778	3,941	4,083	4,252
Dorset	3,418	3,635	3,799	3,938	4,104
Dudley	3,549	3,786	3,949	4,092	4,263
Durham	3,581	3,818	3,982	4,125	4,296
Ealing	4,339	4,634	4,832	5,007	5,213
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,322	3,535	3,715	3,851	4,015
East Sussex	3,598	3,831	3,997	4,141	4,313
Enfield	3,984	4,257	4,437	4,596	4,785
Essex	3,524	3,752	3,924	4,067	4,238
Gateshead	3,585	3,822	3,986	4,129	4,300
Gloucestershire	3,358	3,574	3,744	3,881	4,046
Greenwich	4,745	5,120	5,361	5,576	5,827
Hackney	5,491	5,906	6,170	6,409	6,682
Halton	3,797	4,054	4,226	4,376	4,555
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,070	5,413	5,635	5,831	6,059
Hampshire	3,441	3,659	3,824	3,964	4,132
Haringey	4,482	4,791	4,987	5,161	5,364
Harrow	4,051	4,311	4,507	4,669	4,862
Hartlepool	3,620	3,864	4,029	4,173	4,345
Havering	3,719	3,962	4,137	4,287	4,468
Herefordshire	3,297	3,523	3,687	3,830	4,002
Hertfordshire	3,507	3,730	3,896	4,039	4,212
Hillingdon	3,919	4,179	4,361	4,519	4,709
Hounslow	4,167	4,457	4,651	4,822	5,024
Isle of Wight	3,640	3,883	4,051	4,198	4,373
Islington	5,146	5,555	5,812	6,043	6,310
Kensington and Chelsea	5,211	5,533	5,757	5,956	6,186
Kent	3,523	3,756	3,938	4,081	4,251
Kingston upon Hull, City of	3,738	3,999	4,168	4,317	4,493
Kingston upon Thames	3,826	4,069	4,256	4,410	4,596
Kirklees	3,543	3,781	3,947	4,093	4,266
Knowsley	3,737	4,038	4,236	4,414	4,621
Lambeth	5,208	5,596	5,848	6,075	6,337
Lancashire	3,536	3,765	3,927	4,069	4,238
Leeds	3,532	3,764	3,926	4,068	4,237
Leicester	3,700	3,972	4,151	4,310	4,497
Leicestershire	3,224	3,429	3,596	3,728	3,888
Lewisham	4,997	5,335	5,556	5,751	5,981
Lincolnshire	3,414	3,636	3,795	3,933	4,099
Liverpool	3,851	4,136	4,320	4,484	4,675
Luton	3,821	4,078	4,251	4,402	4,583
Manchester	4,104	4,390	4,571	4,731	4,919
Medway	3,626	3,868	4,034	4,179	4,351
Merton	4,004	4,270	4,452	4,612	4,801
Middlesbrough	3,759	4,013	4,182	4,330	4,506
Milton Keynes	3,620	3,865	4,080	4,231	4,413
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,643	3,916	4,096	4,256	4,443
Newham	4,526	4,860	5,071	5,250	5,478
Norfolk	3,423	3,648	3,807	3,945	4,111
North East Lincolnshire	3,719	3,966	4,134	4,281	4,455
North Lincolnshire	3,435	3,663	3,822	3,961	4,127
North Somerset	3,358	3,574	3,757	3,895	4,061
North Tyneside	3,451	3,676	3,836	3,974	4,140
North Yorkshire	3,458	3,676	3,854	3,993	4,160
Northamptonshire	3,384	3,602	3,785	3,923	4,088
Northumberland	3,330	3,552	3,711	3,850	4,016
Nottingham	4,041	4,321	4,500	4,658	4,843
Nottinghamshire	3,457	3,682	3,842	3,981	4,148
Oldham	3,687	3,944	4,118	4,271	4,453
Oxfordshire	3,480	3,704	3,870	4,011	4,182
Peterborough	3,681	3,929	4,098	4,246	4,422
Plymouth	3,493	3,728	3,889	4,030	4,198
Poole	3,349	3,568	3,724	3,860	4,024
Portsmouth	3,650	3,893	4,061	4,207	4,381
Reading	3,797	4,069	4,260	4,428	4,627
Redbridge	3,757	4,027	4,214	4,380	4,575
Redcar and Cleveland	3,583	3,825	3,990	4,133	4,305
Richmond upon Thames	3,880	4,119	4,311	4,467	4,654
Rochdale	3,744	4,000	4,171	4,321	4,500
Rotherham	3,633	3,879	4,045	4,190	4,363
Rutland	3,520	3,735	3,898	4,039	4,208
Salford	3,877	4,135	4,309	4,462	4,642
Sandwell	3,762	4,035	4,214	4,372	4,557
Sefton	3,523	3,755	3,917	4,058	4,227
Sheffield	3,529	3,778	3,947	4,096	4,272
Shropshire	3,339	3,551	3,715	3,850	4,013
Slough	3,911	4,203	4,404	4,582	4,792
Solihull	3,342	3,556	3,750	3,887	4,052
Somerset	3,365	3,582	3,752	3,889	4,052
South Gloucestershire	3,281	3,489	3,647	3,781	3,944
South Tyneside	3,670	3,923	4,092	4,241	4,417
Southampton	3,697	3,948	4,117	4,265	4,441
Southend-on-Sea	3,620	3,860	4,026	4,171	4,344
Southwark	5,162	5,525	5,756	5,961	6,200
St. Helens	3,577	3,813	3,977	4,120	4,290
Staffordshire	3,381	3,598	3,776	3,913	4,078
Stockport	3,484	3,706	3,902	4,043	4,211
Stockton-on-Tees	3,562	3,797	3,960	4,102	4,272

Dedicated schools grant

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	GUF (£) 2010-11
Stoke-on-Trent	3,651	3,904	4,070	4,215	4,388
Suffolk	3,372	3,591	3,763	3,900	4,065
Sunderland	3,576	3,823	3,990	4,137	4,311
Surrey	3,569	3,801	3,976	4,129	4,313
Sutton	3,810	4,066	4,253	4,409	4,596
Swindon	3,378	3,597	3,775	3,913	4,079
Tameside	3,578	3,818	3,983	4,126	4,298
Telford and Wrekin	3,515	3,750	3,911	4,052	4,219
Thurrock	3,708	3,958	4,141	4,291	4,470
Torbay	3,525	3,760	3,922	4,064	4,233
Tower Hamlets	5,610	6,028	6,289	6,523	6,792
Trafford	3,432	3,653	3,852	3,992	4,160
Wakefield	3,488	3,720	3,881	4,022	4,190
Walsall	3,577	3,843	4,023	4,183	4,371
Waltham Forest	4,115	4,399	4,584	4,747	4,940
Wandsworth	4,513	4,892	5,146	5,376	5,639
Warrington	3,414	3,631	3,819	3,958	4,126
Warwickshire	3,404	3,621	3,789	3,927	4,093
West Berkshire	3,569	3,809	3,984	4,137	4,321
West Sussex	3,488	3,711	3,877	4,018	4,186
Westminster	4,853	5,203	5,439	5,650	5,893
Wigan	3,552	3,784	3,948	4,091	4,262
Wiltshire	3,337	3,554	3,713	3,849	4,013
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,627	3,863	4,040	4,193	4,378
Wirral	3,514	3,765	3,937	4,089	4,269
Wokingham	3,422	3,660	3,844	4,005	4,198
Wolverhampton	3,684	3,961	4,145	4,309	4,502
Worcestershire	3,337	3,553	3,729	3,865	4,028
York	3,397	3,614	3,801	3,939	4,103
England Average	3,643	3,888	4,066	4,218	4,398

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which covers all funded pupils aged three to 15.

2. This figure does not represent the totality of 'education' funding allocated in each year. There are other grants that support the schools budget: these are not included in the provided DSG figure.

Religion: Education

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures are in place to ensure that private schools offer religious education teaching. [213839]

Jim Knight: Independent schools are required to meet standards set out in regulations which cover the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. The relevant parts of this standard require schools to:

Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and respect the law;

Encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute to community life;

Assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.

Schools: Standards

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools received a classification of outstanding in Ofsted reports in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in 2006-07. [211010]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 June 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Between 01 September 2006 and 31 August 2007, three schools in Cornwall, 92 schools in the South West and 1,148 schools in England were judged to have outstanding overall effectiveness. These figures are shown in Table 1, where to put them in context, I also provide the numbers of maintained schools inspected by Ofsted over the same period. The schools in Cornwall judged outstanding during 2006/07 are listed in Table 2, with their parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1: Maintained schools (including city technology colleges and academies) inspected by Ofsted between 01 September 2006 and 31 August 2007

Area	Number of schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness	Number of schools inspected
Cornwall	3	116
South West	92	839
England	1,148	8,322

Table 2: Maintained schools in Cornwall inspected in 2006/07 and judged outstanding for overall effectiveness

School name	Phase	School address	Parliamentary constituency
Mount Hawke Community Primary School	Primary	Rodda's Road, Mount Hawke, Truro TR4 8BA	Truro and St Austell
St. Mary's Catholic School	Primary	Peverell Road, Penzance TR18 2AT	St. Ives
Penair School—A Science College	Secondary	St. Clement, Truro TR1 1TN	Truro and St. Austell

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight, Minister for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Secondary and Primary Education

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools *(a)* opened, *(b)* closed and *(c)* were amalgamated in each local education authority in each year since 1997-98; [213621]

(2) how many primary schools *(a)* opened, *(b)* closed and *(c)* were amalgamated in each local education authority in each year since 1997-98. [213622]

Jim Knight: Two tables showing the numbers of primary, secondary (and middle deemed primary and middle deemed secondary) schools opened and closed in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority, have been placed in the Library. The tables separate the phases of education.

A further table showing school amalgamations has also been placed in the Library. It is not possible to accurately state the number of amalgamations by year since 1997 as records did not always record the reason for opening/closure. Even the records from 1999 to 2002 can be inaccurate, as some of these were proposed prior to 1999, but implemented post 1999.

There are significantly more closures than new schools, because an amalgamation can be either where:

(a) two or more schools close and are replaced by a new school (sometimes on the site of a closing school(s)), or

(b) one or more schools close and a continuing school is altered, to accommodate the displaced pupils.

Secondary Education: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* pupil to teacher and *(b)* pupil to adult ratio at key stage 3 was in secondary schools in (i) Chorley constituency and (ii) Lancashire local education authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [213641]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

School pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained secondary schools are readily available. Figures for Chorley constituency, Lancashire local authority and England for January 2007 are provided in the following table.

Pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained secondary[2] schools 2007

	Chorley constituency	*Lancashire local authority*	*England*
Secondary			
2007	16.5	16.0	16.5

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[2] Excludes academies.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools were in special measures in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [213382]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of secondary schools that were in special measures at the end of each academic year since 1997/98 in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England.

Number of secondary schools in special measures

End of academic year	*Chorley*	*Lancashire*	*England*
1997/98	0	1	95
1998/99	0	1	81
1999/2000	0	0	83
2000/01	0	0	64
2001/02	0	0	52
2002/03	0	0	58
2003/04	0	1	94
2004/05	0	1	90
2005/06	0	1	54
2006/07	0	2	47
2007/08 (up to end of spring term)	0	3	51

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 11 year olds achieved the target level 4 in both English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 1997. [213383]

Jim Knight: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Figures for 11 year olds achieving level 4 and above in both English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 are only readily available at national level from 2003; these figures together with local authority level tables showing the percentages achieving the expected level in each of these subjects separately can be found in the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Revised)", which is accessible via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

Local authority level information showing the percentage achieving the expected level in both English and mathematics will be published in the summer. These statistics will cover years 2005, 2006 and 2007 and will be placed on the Research and Statistics Gateway accessible via the link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/whatsnew.shtml.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in Chorley constituency *(a)* were placed in special measures, *(b)* were issued notices to improve and *(c)* had at least 30 per cent. of students achieving five GCSEs, graded A* to C, including English, science and mathematics in 2007. [213640]

Jim Knight: No secondary schools in Chorley were placed in special measures or issued with notices to improve during 2007.

The information requested for *(c)* is not published by the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. All six secondary schools in Chorley had more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics in 2007. Further information on the performance of Chorley's secondary schools can be found in the secondary school (GCSE and equivalent) achievement and attainment tables at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

Teachers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* newly qualified teachers (NQTs), *(b)* mathematics NQTs and *(c)* science NQTs were teaching in secondary schools as a proportion of all teachers in each category in each of the last 10 years. [214193]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Truancy

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many truancy sweeps were conducted by each local authority in England in each of the last five years; [213177]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of truancy on standards attained in education; and if he will make a statement; [213178]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* the police on the detention of children truanting from school; and if he will make a statement. [213179]

Kevin Brennan: Under Section 16 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), police officers may, if authorised to do so by a chief police officer, take excluded pupils who are in a public place during normal school hours and children who they believe are out of school without lawful authority to a designated place established by the local authority or to the school. This power is often used during a "school attendance and exclusions sweep".

This Department and the Home Department have issued joint guidance to local authorities and police services on the use of the power to remove pupils from public places and the organisation of exercises using it called "School Attendance and Exclusions Sweeps: Effective Practice and Advice" which explains the law and gives examples of practice that is in use.

Under Section 444A of the Education Act 1996 (as amended) police officers may issue fixed penalty notices to parents who fail to secure their child's regular attendance, if they have been authorised to do so by the local code of practice on the use of penalty notices.

Police community support officers may also use the powers to remove pupils from a public place and to issue fixed penalty notices, if they have been designated to do so under the Police Reform Act 2002 by the chief officer of the force concerned.

The Department has not collected data on the number of "school attendance and exclusions sweeps" conducted by local authorities since autumn 2006, when we ceased co-ordinating national sweeps, allowing authorities to run sweeps according to local need. I have put the data we collected as part of the rationally co-ordinated exercises in the Library of the House.

Analyses of national data show that there is a correlation between absence from school and pupils' levels of achievement, with average performance of pupils in schools with lower levels of absence better than pupils in schools with higher levels of absence. Data for 2006-07 showed that in secondary schools with an average of 12 days absence per pupil 36 per cent. of pupils or more obtained five of more GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and maths compared with 91 per cent. of pupils in secondary schools with an average of less than six days absence per pupil In primary schools with an average of more than 12 days absence per pupil 52 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or above in English and mathematics compared with 84 per cent. of pupils in schools where the average absence was less than six days per pupil.

Number of school attendance and exclusion sweeps organised by local authorities as part of the nationally co-ordinated exercises

	Number of Sweeps				
Local Authority	*Spring 2003*	*2003-4 school year*	*2004-5 school year*	*2005-6 school year*	*Autumn 2006*
Barking and Dagenham	3	11	6	6	3
Barnet	8	0	13	5	2
Barnsley	24	52	85	37	18
Bath and NE Somerset	7	14	7	0	0
Bedfordshire	14	28	42	38	16
Bexley	1	7	29	12	4
Birmingham	10	58	22	30	20
Blackburn	14	10	16	20	7
Blackpool	5	6	9	9	4
Bolton	2	3	4	1	2
Bournemouth	3	4	8	10	7
Bracknell Forest	12	13	9	11	8
Bradford	7	15	14	16	0
Brent	9	0	3	8	3
Brighton and Hove	2	3	2	4	6
Bristol City	38	115	5	6	5
Bromley	4	8	18	28	13
Buckinghamshire	0	6	8	12	10
Bury	10	112	70	46	10
Calderdale	5	20	20	12	4
Cambridgeshire	0	20	29	21	5
Camden	3	5	20	17	8
Cheshire	1	5	23	17	10
City of Derby	32	94	74	62	0
City of Nottingham	25	38	32	33	8
City of Westminster.	5	8	7	8	5
Cornwall	2	6	9	9	2
Corporation of London	0	3	4	4	0
Coventry	0	27	33	24	0
Croydon	4	4	10	9	2
Cumbria	0	4	8	4	2
Darlington	2	3	4	5	1
Derbyshire	4	29	25	26	0
Devon	0	5	11	12	5
Doncaster	4	11	24	0	11
Dorset	3	0	5	4	11
Dudley	0	18	7	9	4
Durham	18	42	39	47	21
Ealing	6	15	21	22	10
East Riding	4	10	21	0	0
East Sussex NB UGI	3	6	14	25	25
Enfield	5	8	5	2	5
Essex	6	12	26	29	14
Gateshead	11	24	21	20	14
Gloucestershire	6	10	12	16	8
Greenwich	9	10	15	10	5
Hackney	5	6	20	15	18
Halton	8	4	10	12	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	18	33	30	14
Hampshire	12	18	8	11	5
Haringey	8	17	16	27	10
Harrow	11	20	19	14	3
Hartlepool	4	9	18	12	9
Havering	3	0	2	6	4

Number of school attendance and exclusion sweeps organised by local authorities as part of the nationally co-ordinated exercises

Local Authority	*Number of Sweeps*				
	Spring 2003	*2003-4 school year*	*2004-5 school year*	*2005-6 school year*	*Autumn 2006*
Herefordshire	3	6	2	0	1
Hertfordshire	23	3	17	13	11
Hillingdon	16	29	38	38	17
Hounslow	8	12	18	64	21
Isle of Wight	9	17	8	4	4
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	10	18	25	20	7
Kensington and Chelsea	8	16	7	5	1
Kent	15	37	38	42	20
Kingston upon Hull	14	11	8	0	5
Kingston-upon-Thames	3	6	5	14	4
Kirklees	3	6	8	2	5
Knowsley	0	0	16	9	3
Lambeth	5	9	10	0	0
Lancashire	0	46	30	34	14
Leeds	4	35	44	37	5
Leicester City	2	4	5	8	3
Leicestershire	2	10	14	11	4
Lewisham	9	14	10	9	5
Lincolnshire	8	17	17	13	8
Liverpool	22	94	89	97	36
Luton	0	2	3	12	8
Manchester	6	14	10	19	20
Medway	0	4	3	11	3
Merton	2	9	8	11	5
Middlesbrough	9	21	25	20	10
Milton Keynes	6	18	10	11	2
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	15	41	36	32	8
Newham	0	30	14	10	4
Norfolk	6	2	15	7	0
North East Lincolnshire	5	8	7	4	2
North Lincolnshire	9	48	29	15	15
North Somerset	9	12	18	9	2
North Tyneside	5	15	5	5	0
North Yorkshire	8	8	26	18	5
Northamptonshire	8	5	8	6	9
Northumberland	9	17	24	18	10
Nottinghamshire	8	17	14	17	12
Oldham	4	8	9	7	5
Oxfordshire	21	16	10	6	3
Peterborough	1	5	5	0	0
Plymouth	3	6	3	0	3
Poole	1	6	9	4	0
Portsmouth	1	2	2	2	1
Reading	3	6	6	11	5
Redbridge	3	7	6	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland	5	6	8	9	8
Richmond-upon-Thames	4	8	6	7	2
Rochdale	0	10	9	7	2
Rotherham	12	18	30	23	14
Rutland	0	1	2	4	2
Salford	0	11	10	7	5
Sandwell	21	78	46	71	27
Sefton	10	66	46	66	30
Sheffield	10	10	10	0	0
Shropshire	4	18	21	18	12
Slough	8	9	6	3	0
Solihull	5	0	26	23	6
Somerset	6	7	8	5	3
South Gloucestershire	5	5	7	7	10
South Tyneside	0	7	8	6	0
Southampton	2	8	20	3	7
Southend	3	3	5	2	0
Southwark	0	0	2	17	11
St Helens	18	10	9	10	5
Staffordshire	27	55	27	32	22
Stockport	10	30	26	20	20
Stockton-on-Tees	2	5	5	6	0
Stoke-on-Trent	6	8	5	33	0
Suffolk	13	9	15	14	7
Sunderland	5	10	17	19	14
Surrey	9	19	18	14	9
Sutton	6	9	15	17	2
Swindon	4	1	8	10	7
Tameside	2	7	9	24	0
The Wrekin	6	23	20	32	11
Thurrock	5	10	10	3	29
Torbay	4	4	4	4	0
Tower Hamlets	3	12	38	43	30
Trafford	6	5	0	0	0
Wakefield	3	10	6	8	4
Walsall	-	11	12	6	5
Waltham Forest	3	12	12	11	6
Wandsworth	6	7	3	6	2
Warrington	10	19	20	12	3
Warwickshire	0	4	4	4	3
West Berkshire	4	9	8	6	3
West Sussex	1	1	2	2	7
Wigan	2	4	6	12	16
Wiltshire	5	3	2	4	4
Windsor and Maidenhead	4	10	10	5	0
Wirral	4	13	16	15	7
Wokingham	0	2	1	a	0
Wolverhampton	6	12	11	11	6
York	4	47	22	25	23

Work Experience: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools are required to conduct health and safety assessments in workplaces agreeing to take pupils on work experience placements; and if he will make a statement. [214077]

Jim Knight: Schools have the primary duty of care for their students and must ensure that health and safety risk assessments are carried out for work experience placements. Assessments are frequently carried out on schools' behalf by education business partnership organisations. Employers are responsible for the health and safety of everyone on their premises. 95 per cent. of young people participate in work experience, amounting to over half a million placements each year within which the track record of health and safety is excellent reflecting the care that schools and employers take to keep young people safe and to maximise the benefits of work experience.

Young Offenders: Administration of Justice

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the youth justice reforms introduced in 1998. [211552]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Justice Board and local multi-agency youth offending teams were established in 1998 under the Crime and Disorder Act. A key role of the Youth Justice Board is to monitor the performance of, and standards for, the youth justice system. Its work is a key driver for the improvements the system has seen since the reforms introduced in 1998, and its ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the system continues to influence policy on tackling youth crime and bringing about further improvements.

Youth offending teams were described by the Audit Commission in Youth Justice 2004 as

> "a good example of a flexible, multi-disciplinary approach to service delivery from which other public sector partnerships could learn"

In general, the new youth justice arrangements were described by the Audit Commission as

> "a significant improvement and a good model for delivering public services".

The Audit Commission also identified that following the reforms to the youth justice system young offenders are more likely to receive an intervention, young offenders are dealt with more quickly, young offenders are more likely to make amends for their wrong-doing, and magistrates are very satisfied with the service they receive from Youth offending teams.

Notable examples of improvements to the youth justice system are:

Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 show that the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system has reduced from 97,329 in 2005-06 to 93,730 in 2006-07.

Self-reported youth offending levels are relatively stable, with about 25 per cent. of young people admitting to offending in the previous year although only a minority of this is serious and/or persistent.

The national statistics published in May 2008 showed a reduction of 17.4 per cent. in the frequency rate of re-offending between 2000 and 2005. The results also show that the percentage of offenders who re-offended over a one year period fell from 40.2 per cent. in 2000 to 38.4 per cent. in 2005.

Youth in Action Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which projects in the UK are funded under the Youth in Action programme of the European Union. [214168]

Beverley Hughes: The list shows those organisations so far approved in 2008 to receive funding from the UK National Agency under the European Union's Youth in Action programme by action type. An organisation appears in the list more than once where it has been approved for funding for more than one project.

Records are not held by the UK for projects under this programme that are funded directly from the European Commission. These projects are therefore excluded from the list.

Action 1. Youth for Europe

Applicant:

Theatr Fforwm Cymru
Clubs for young people Wales
Point Europa
Portland Area Youth
The Mendip Centre
Devon and Cornwall Housing
KPC YOUTH
St. Comgalls Parish Youth Centre
Portadown YMCA
NEELB YOUTH SERVICE
Birches Community Association
Patrician Youth Centre
Brownlow Area Youth Project
Brownlow Area Youth Project
East Belfast Area Youth Project
Reach Across
Reach Across
Reach Across
Reepham International Community Group
Impact Youth Group
Stockport Youth Service: the Duke of Edinburgh Award—Gold exploration group
CSV Training and Enterprise North
Leeds college of music
Go Away and Learn GOAL
Percy Hedley Foundation
East Durham Youth in Action
Evenwood and AYCC joint youth project
Grey Lodge Settlement
South Lanarkshire Council, Youth Learning Services
Motherwell
Motherwell
Scripture Union England and Wales
Littlehampton Rangers
Groundwork North Northants
Leicester Stars Football Club
St. Matthews Community Solution Centre
Norfolk county council
South London Somali Society
Albert and Friends Instant Circus
Theatre Royal Stratford East

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)
Lido Youth and Culture Association
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC Youth Forum)
MeWe Art and Education
Middlesbrough Youth Service
4th Lymm Scout Group
NEELB Youth Service
Patrician Youth Centre
Spirit of Enniskillen Trust
Corpus Christi Youth Centre
Spirit of Enniskillen Trust
Inside Out
Lewis and Harris Youth Clubs Association
Perth and District YMCA
Loch Lomond Pilgrimage Centre
Muirhouse Youth Development Group (MYDG)
CHAI—Community Help and Advice Initiative
St. Ninian's Church Youth Challenge
Bathgate PHAB Club
Grey Lodge Settlement
Scottish Youth Dance
Tullochan Trust
CHAI—Community Help and Advice Initiative
The Southside Project
Bishops Green Youth Project
Robert Elkins for Oxfordshire County Council Youth Service
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDCB)
Callington and District Twinning Association—CADTA
Bristol City Council
Wiltshire County Council Youth Development Service
Devon Federation of Young Farmers Club
Devon and Cornwall Housing Association
1st Wellington Scout Group
Cheddar Baptist Church Youth Group
Pen-y-sarn Youth Club
Wrexham Borough Council
BISYOC
Pit Stop 2000
Now or Never Generation
The Urban Art Project
Vertigo theatre drama group
Minority of Europe
Next Generation
Carmarthen Post 16
Hackney Remixed
Matt Roberts Arts Group
Lewisham Young Mayors
Youth promoters Leeds (Everything is possible)

Action 2. European Voluntary Service

A Rocha
Belfast Community Circus School
Bryson House—Ulster Wildlife Trust
Bryson House—RNIB Northern Ireland
Cafe Project
Concordia
CSV 2008 R1
CVNI
Depaul Trust
Depaul Trust Northern Ireland
Ecoseeds
Edinburgh Cyrenians
EIL Tools for Self Reliance
EIL Upton Warren
EIL First Key
EIL YMCA Winchester
EIL Malvern Hills
EIL YMCA Fairthorne
The Forest
ICP Cardigan Bay
ICP Sea Trust
ICP Meeting of Minds
ICYE Cambridge Cyrenians
ICYE Delos
Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers
Options for Life
Point Europa
Public Achievement
StudentForce
SWYM
UNA
West London YMCA
UCAN2
Edinburgh University Settlement
ICYE
ICYE
Action Reconciliation Service for Peace
Bath YMCA
British Red Cross
Bryson Charitable Group—HI NI
Bryson Charitable Group—Queen's Uni
Bryson Charitable Group—UWT
CSV
EIL—First Key
EIL—Romford YMCA
EIL—Slimbridge Wildfowl
EIL—Worcester YMCA
Everything's Possible—Arts
Everything's Possible—Youth
Grey Lodge Settlement
ICYE—Cambridge Cyrenians
ICYE—Delos
ICYE—Treloar Trust
MYDG
National Trust
Options for Life
Pestalozzi
Point Europa
Southwell House
Student Force
Time for God
Tools for Solidarity
UNA Exchange
British Red Cross
Bryson Charitable Group
UNA Exchange
Depaul Trust
Everything's Possible

Action 3.1. Youth in the World

Bridges Project

Play-a Part

South Gloucestershire Council Youth Service

Minorities of Europe

Northumberland Inter-Cultural Experience Group

Charnwood Racial Equality Council

Minorities of Europe

Minorities of Europe

Youthaction, Northern Ireland

Enterprising Newcastle

Clue Academy

Cambridge House

Minorities of Europe

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs, WAYC

Axis Educational Trust

Tides Training and consultancy

International School for Peace Studies

Action 4.3. Youth Support

International Network for Culture and Arts

Everything's Possible

Inside Out Project

Inside Out Project

Network4YOUth England

Canllaw Online Cyf

Community Education Services

Chester Lions Club

Point Europa

North Eastern Education and Library Board

Brouhaha International

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster

Centre for Outdoor Education, Trinity College Carmarthen

Inside Out Project

Sherbourne Douzelage

ICP Partneriaeth

Point Europa

Apsley Paper Trail

Action 5.1. Youth Policy Co-operation

European Badminton Youth Network

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 June 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212517]

David Cairns: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who are both committed to achieving a work life balance for all staff. No staff in the Office formally work from home.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212505]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, and the office reimburses those Departments for the costs involved. The office does not maintain a record of the hourly pay of staff; such information is held by the parent Departments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213521]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office spent the following

			£
	Furnishings	*Art*	*New Vehicles*
2005-06	33,077	371	0
2006-07	15,989	431	0
2007-08	13,347	514	0

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213752]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on timber products from other similar expenditure; total expenditure on office furnishings was:

	£
2003-04	9,085
2004-05	32,236
2005-06	33,077
2006-07	15,989
2007-08	13,347

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213753]

David Cairns: All timber and timber products procured by my Department over the last five years have come from sustainable sources. The amount procured and the cost could only be established at disproportionate cost. The Scotland Office forms part of the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Justice does not keep separate records for the timber and timber products used in that part of its estate.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Peter Hain

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, whether the Commission has received a report from the police on the case of the right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain). [214217]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received no such report.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Responsibilities

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* task forces her Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to establish; on what date each such initiative (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [213488]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: Details of the Department for Transport's current consultations and reviews have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The Department has no task forces.

Invalid Vehicles: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which London boroughs operate a Shopmobility scheme; and what funding is provided for the scheme from the public purse in each of those boroughs. [213801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We understand that there are three Shopmobility schemes operating in London: in Camden, Kensington and Chelsea and Wood Green. Shopmobility centres are not centrally funded by Government, and data regarding how much funding these schemes receive are therefore not available.

M1

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Highways Agency to implement its proposals for widening the M1 between junctions 10 and 13; and what estimate she has made of the cost of the scheme. [209287]

Mr. Tom Harris: We announced in March that we had asked the Highways Agency to investigate alternative options for adding capacity to the M1 between junctions 10 and 13, including hard shoulder running. This work is under way and due to be complete by the autumn. The timetable for implementing improvements will depend on the option selected. Cost estimates are subject to further work and validation.

Motorways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average cost per mile of *(a)* motorway widening and *(b)* deploying hard shoulder running. [209069]

Mr. Tom Harris: The "Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study", published on 4 March 2008, assumed a capital cost of £5.6 million per kilometre (for both directions, 2004 prices) for hard shoulder running. In addition operating costs of £92,000 per kilometre per year (2004 prices) were assumed. These costs were based on experience from the M42 hard shoulder running scheme, with some adjustments for development of design and allowance for risks. By way of comparison the capital cost of conventionally widening this section of the M42 was estimated at between £18 million and £25 million per kilometre in current prices.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, on departmental official cars, what other suitable cars are available for non-Cabinet Ministers to use. [214012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not hold a list of suitable cars; it is for each Minister to choose a suitable car for official use in line with the criteria set by the Prime Minister.

Oil: Prices

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the change in levels of *(a)* urban and *(b)* inter-urban congestion following recent increases in the price of oil. [213023]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: Data on urban and inter-urban congestion can be found in the Department's Transport Statistics Bulletin, Road Traffic and Congestion in Great Britain Q1 2008 at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221546/224925/224965/368305/368322/roadtraffgbq12008.pdf.

Provisional data on inter-urban congestion up to March 2008 are included in this bulletin. May 2008 data will be released on 3 July. Data on urban congestion are included for the period to August 2007. We have not yet analysed our urban data after this date and so do not have an estimate of changes in congestion since then.

BERR have recently published new oil price projections in light of a consultation on them that ended early this year. They can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html.

BERR propose reviewing these assumptions on a regular basis, at least annually.

We are currently in the process of producing new road transport forecasts (which will include congestion) based on these updated oil price projections. We are also aiming to release new appraisal guidance with fuel prices based upon them shortly.

Railways: Fares

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train operating companies' franchise agreements permit them to increase fares by more than one per cent. above inflation for a given period of time; and by how much and over what period of time this is permitted in each case. [209075]

Mr. Tom Harris: Southeastern and Northern have RPI plus 3 per cent. regimes. Southeastern is for the entire franchise area until the end of 2011; fares regulation will revert to RPI plus 1 per cent. from January 2012. Northern has an RPI plus 3 per cent. regime for the Leeds and West Yorkshire area only—this applies for the length of the present franchise. Both regimes were approved on the basis of supporting rolling stock investment in those franchises.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the number of uncommitted carriages held by rolling stock companies available for use by train operating companies who wish to lease extra carriages. [211091]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: There has been no formal assessment carried out. It is up to the leasing companies to manage their portfolio of vehicles and offer them for lease to the market. However, current market indications are that there is very little suitable off-lease rolling stock available. Any vehicles which are off lease are being offered to the operators.

Roads

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances control of an A road would be moved from the local authority to the Highways Agency. [213961]

Mr. Tom Harris: The roads managed by the Highways Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State are of strategic importance, either nationally or regionally, and carry large volumes of long distance traffic.

The composition of the strategic road network was reviewed as part of the Government's Transport White Paper "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone", published in 1998. The factors taken into account in identifying this network are set out in the White Paper and in the accompanying document, "A New Deal for Trunk Roads in England".

If the Secretary of State for Transport were to judge that the function of a local authority road had changed such that it now met the factors established in that White Paper, or if a road formed a better alternative to an existing trunk road, the road could be transferred to the strategic road network and managed by the Highways Agency.

The only other circumstances in which that can occur is during the delivery of major improvement schemes to the strategic road network, when very short sections (a few hundred metres or less) of local authority controlled roads can be transferred to the Highways Agency as part of the realignment of roads and reconfiguration of junctions required by the scheme.

Roads: Planning

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's definition of route protection status is in the context of planned road developments. [209306]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency issues a Direction (TR111) under article 15 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, which requires a local planning authority to

> Refer planning applications, which fall within 67 metres of the centre line of the proposed route, to the agency, whereby the agency could impose a direction restricting development
>
> Notify anyone who submits a local search on a property within 200 metres of the proposed route.

In most cases a TR111 is put in place at the same time as a preferred route is announced.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the High Level Output Statement include the carriages for the London Midland line announced prior to July 2007. [212949]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 217 new carriages ordered by London Midland and announced in June 2007 as part of the West Midlands Franchise Awards Process, are part of the 1,300 extra carriages promised in the High Level Output Specification. The new carriages will allow existing carriages to be cascaded, delivering extra capacity as set out in the Rolling Stock Plan.

Rolling Stock: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department had spent on consultancy fees on the procurement of new Pendolino carriages for the West Coast Main Line on the latest date for which figures are available. [212613]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are two components associated with this project. The first is the four new 11-car sets which are the replacements for the Grayrigg set, written off after the accident. The second component is the new 62 vehicles to be added to the existing fleet so that 31 trains are extended from nine to 11 cars. The total consultants fee up to end of period two (24 May 2008) for both the replacement sets and the new 31 two car sets is £518,000 on a project budget of £169 million for the period to 2014.

Transport: Bedfordshire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the relative merits of *(a)* a guided busway and *(b)* a reinstated railway between Luton and Dunstable; what account she has taken of (i) climate change policy and (ii) the trend in oil prices in forming her view; and if she will make a statement. [213490]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: The Luton to Dunstable Busway local transport major scheme is being promoted by Luton borough council. The proposed scheme involves the construction of approximately 12 km of busway, linking the centres of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis with London Luton airport.

As part of the process of assessing whether the Busway was the best option to progress, I understand that the council evaluated a number of alternative schemes including heavy rail and light rail. The assessment concluded that none of the alternative options provided as good value for money as the Busway.

The scheme was granted initial Government funding approval in December 2003. Following two public inquiries, the scheme secured all its statutory powers in November 2006 under the Transport and Works Act 1992.

The Department for Transport is now currently considering a request from Luton borough council to move the scheme to the next approval stage within the Department's local major scheme process. As part of our assessment of Luton's Conditional Approval bid, the Department will be revisiting the earlier analysis of the environmental and modelling aspects of the scheme in the light of developments since Programme Entry was granted in 2003.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 38W, on transport exhaust emissions, what mechanism is in place to achieve the European Commission's 16 per cent. greenhouse gas reduction target over 2005 levels for the UK's non-traded sector, with specific reference to the reduction to be made in the road transport sector. [211573]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: The EU's proposed 16 per cent. burden-sharing target for the UK's non-traded sector is still subject to negotiation and applies to the entire non-traded sector. As such it will not be broken down into specific sectoral shares, for example between the transport and domestic heating sectors. The Government's framework for managing carbon budgets, including road transport emissions, will be established under the Climate Change Bill currently before Parliament.

Further details are available from the Bill website:

> http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/index.htm

In summary this framework will involve a requirement to meet emissions reduction targets in 2020 and 2050, and to set legally binding five-year carbon budgets starting from 2008. It will also involve annual progress reporting to Parliament and advice to Government and scrutiny from the independent Committee on Climate Change. In setting these budgets the Government will take account of their international and domestic obligations such as the EU's Climate and Energy package (including the 16 per cent. burden sharing target) and the Kyoto target.

Waterloo Station

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo to reopen for use for domestic rail services. [213002]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) to finalise the design and costs of the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic services. Therefore some services, most likely on the routes to Windsor and Reading, could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from the timetable change date in December 2008.

It is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning to make all the platforms at Waterloo long enough to accommodate 10 car trains and to modify the junction layouts on the approaches to the station so that, ultimately, all the platforms at Waterloo, including those once used by Eurostar, can be used by 10-car domestic services. Such a scheme would allow the use of longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity on the South Western network.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which London boroughs use wheelie bins as the main form of household waste collection. [210346]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not keep records on the types of waste collection system operated by local authorities. Decisions on local waste collection and recycling services are rightly for individual local authorities to make in close consultation with their residents. The Government strongly encourage local authorities to use good practice and to consider the overall carbon impact of their collection services. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) provides local authorities with advice on this.

Fisheries

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which species fished by UK vessels have fallen below sustainable fishing levels; and in which year fish stocks were first threatened in each case. [212806]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1998, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has applied precautionary reference points as the basis for its advice, identifying which harvesting rates meet precautionary criteria. These criteria aim to ensure sustainability by keeping spawning stock biomass (SSB, the weight of mature fish) above a minimum precautionary level, B_{pa} (set high enough to allow a margin of error sufficient to keep SSB above a lower limit level, B_{lim}), and keeping the fishing rate (F) below a maximum precautionary level, F_{pa} (set low enough to allow a margin of error sufficient to keep F below an upper limit level, F_{lim}).

Based on advice from ICES in 2007, which evaluated stock assessments using fisheries data for years up to and including 2006, and survey data up to and including 2007, the following stocks fished by the UK have experienced unsustainable fishing levels when compared to the maximum precautionary level:

(i) North Sea

Herring since 2006

(ii) West of Scotland

Haddock since 2006

(iii) Irish Sea

Cod since the introduction of precautionary reference points in 1998, sole since 2006

(iv) Western Channel

Both plaice and sole since the introduction of precautionary reference points in 1998

(v) Widely distributed

North-east Atlantic mackerel since 2001, blue whiting since 1999

For a number of stocks it has not been possible to make a quantitative comparison because the level of F was uncertain in 2007. This includes some stocks which have shown a long-term decline, such as cod in the west of Scotland.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much UK fishing quota was not used in 2007; what estimate he has made of the amount of quota allocated for 2008 which will not be used; what steps he plans to take in respect of unused quota; and if he will *(a)* buy back and *(b)* allocate to the under 10 metre fleet any unused quota. [213257]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer given 23 June 2008]*: In total, 87 per cent. of all UK quota was fished in 2007. No estimate has been made of the amount of quota that will not be used in 2008 as many factors affect uptake, making it very difficult to make a meaningful estimate.

I am working closely with the industry to ensure that potentially unused quota is made available to the under 10 metre fleet. I have no plans to buy back quota and allocate this to the under 10 metre fleet. However, I am planning to publish next month a consultation document on measures to assist the under 10 metre fleet.

Litter: North-East

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices have been issued for litter-dropping in *(a)* Wirral West constituency and *(b)* Merseyside in the last 18 months; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the issue of fixed penalty notices on littering in urban areas. [212980]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA collects data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for litter-dropping by each local authority in England. The table contains statistics on the number of fixed penalty notices issued and reported by each local authority in Merseyside.

Local authority	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*
Knowsley	72	21
Liverpool	100	757
Sefton	0	0
St. Helens	0	4
Wirral	151	[1]

[1] No data.

A full breakdown of the available data can be found on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA has not carried out a direct assessment of the impact of fixed penalty notices on instances of littering.

Local authorities in England have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for littering offences, or can choose to take a prosecution. English local authorities issued 43,624 fixed penalty notices for littering offences in 2006-07 compared to 33,033 in 2005-06, the payment rate was 77.1 per cent. in 2006-07 compared to 54 per cent. in 2005-06, and 233 local authorities made use of the powers to issue fixed penalty notices in 2006-07 compared to 197 in 2005-06. Local authorities have a variety of tools available to them to make local assessments as part of their cleansing and enforcement strategies, including data sources such as the national indicator on cleanliness, the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England and the extended Local Environmental Quality Survey of England.

Maps: EC Law

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to consult on legislative and other means of implementing the INSPIRE Directive. [211259]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has been working with stakeholders across central, devolved and local government, as well as the wider geographic information community, in considering how to implement the INSPIRE Directive. We will, in due course, be consulting further on how we propose to transpose the directive into UK legislation, and on its subsequent implementation.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget has been allocated to the Marine Management Organisation implementation team within the Marine Fisheries Agency; and what the grade of the Director of the team is. [211559]

Jonathan Shaw: I am keen to achieve a smooth transition from the Marine and Fisheries Agency to the Marine Management Organisation, and to start work towards the new organisation in good time. A budget of £1 million has been allocated to support the continued development of the Marine and Fisheries Agency in 2008-09, mindful of its probable transition to the MMO. This work is not dependent on the parliamentary process.

The post of director of the MMO implementation team is at grade 6.

Sewers: Urban Areas

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* responsibility for, *(b)* ownership of and *(c)* maintenance of urban drainage systems; and if he will make a statement. [212958]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA recently consulted on options for the allocation of responsibility for the ownership and long-term maintenance of sustainable drainage systems, as part of the consultation on "Improving Surface Water Drainage". This consultation was launched alongside the Government's Water Strategy, "Future Water", and closed on 30 April 2008. We will publish a summary of the responses in late July, followed by a Government response to the consultation and proposed course of action later in the year.

Solvents: Waste Disposal

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has issued to local authorities in relation to the disposal of waste paints and solvents from domestic properties. [211948]

Joan Ruddock: I approved the recently published National Household Hazardous Waste Forum's "Haz Guide", which provides advice on the disposal of waste paints and solvents.

This can be found on the internet on the National Household Hazardous Waste Forum's website at

www.nhhf.org.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Ageing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the results of projects on which his Department has jointly worked with France and Germany at EU level on managing ageing populations and tackling the causes of poverty. [211212]

Mr. Timms: My Department collaborated in a seminar on active ageing held by France in November 2007, which brought together UK, French and German policy experts on extending working lives. On June 23 Germany hosted a follow-on event mainly involving employers and other stakeholders from the three countries. This work is part of the continuous process of Governments across the European Union learning from each other and sharing good practice. There was no published report.

My Department exchanges good practice on welfare reform with all EU member states. This aims, for example, to increase participation in employment under the Lisbon Jobs and Growth Strategy and contribute to the eradication of poverty under the EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion process. The Lisbon Strategy includes a target for an EU employment level by 2010 of 50 per cent. of older people of working age. The spring European Council in March noted that an employment rate of 43.5 per cent. had been achieved by the end of 2006, 6.5 percentage points from the target.

Asbestos: Farms

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations the Health and Safety Executive has received from the farming industry on the proportionality of regulations concerning the disposal of white asbestos. [211255]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive has received no recent representations from farming industry representatives on the proportionality of the regulations concerning the disposal of white asbestos, but an official has recently met members of the National Farmers Union at their request to discuss the international classification of white asbestos.

Carer's Allowance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the earnings threshold is for those claiming carer's allowance; and if he will consider raising the threshold. [213015]

Mrs. McGuire: The Carer's Allowance earnings limit was increased to £95 a week in October 2007 as a special measure to improve support for carers. The Government's 10 year strategy for carers published on 10 June 2008 "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities" committed to looking at the current structure of benefits for carers, and stated

> "Within the context of wider welfare reform and the fundamental review of the care and support system, we must create a system of carers' benefits that is able to provide support where it is most needed and that can adapt to the wide range of needs that carers have."

Carer's Allowance: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive carer's allowance in *(a)* the Hemsworth constituency, and *(b)* Wakefield district. [213016]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Carer's Allowance cases in payment: November 2007

	Number
Hemsworth parliamentary constituency	1,090
Wakefield metropolitan district council	3,310

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
3. This information is published at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Child Maintenance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward amendments to regulations governing child support so that payments received in lieu of a company car are treated in the same way as the provision of a company car in calculating the level of child maintenance. [213551]

Mr. Plaskitt: Payments made in lieu of a company car are treated as income within the child maintenance calculation, in the event that such payments are subject to tax. There are no plans to amend regulations in this respect.

However, under child support legislation, expenses incurred by persons "wholly, exclusively and necessarily" in the course of their employment are disregarded as income when the child maintenance liability is calculated. In some cases this can include expenses relating to company cars.

Cycling

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to extend the cycle to work scheme to employees in his Department. [212616]

Mrs. McGuire: It is this Department's policy to extend the cycle to work scheme for our employees. The scheme will be launched in autumn 2008.

Industrial Accidents: Vehicles

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons fatalities involving at-work vehicles are not included in the fatalities of workers recorded annually by the Health and Safety Executive; and if he will make a statement. [212851]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* Fatalities recorded by the HSE are notified under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), which only require employers to notify HSE of fatal accidents that occur within the workplace or when they involve a specific road side activity.

The police are responsible for the investigation of fatalities that occur on public roads, whether or not the vehicle is involved in a work activity, and collect information which is used by the Department for Transport to compile their Annual Statistics on Road Casualties.

Industrial Health and Safety: Redcliffe Bay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a risk assessment of the Redcliffe Bay oil storage depot site near Portishead has been completed by the Health and Safety Executive. [211491]

Mrs. McGuire: The Oil and Pipelines Agency (OPA), as the operator of the Redcliffe Bay fuel storage depot has the duty under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH), to conduct and complete a risk assessment for the site.

The COMAH Regulations are enforced in England and Wales by a competent authority comprising of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environmental Agency (EA).

OPA has produced a safety report which included the main results and arguments of the hazard analysis and risk analysis, and submitted this to the competent authority for assessment as required by COMAH. In the safety report, OPA was required to demonstrate that it has taken all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and to limit the consequences to people and the environment of any that might occur. The HSE has completed its part of the competent authority's assessment of the Redcliffe Bay Safety report, and this has been included in the competent authority's conclusions on its overall determination of the case for safety made by OPA in the report.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter of 20 May from the hon. Member for Walsall North on home responsibilities protection awards to pensioners. [213958]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 23 June 2008.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment. [213763]

Barbara Follett: None

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by the Government Equalities Office since its inception. [213531]

Barbara Follett: None.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people in the Government Equalities Office are authorised to work from home. [212511]

Barbara Follett: Subject to line management approval and operational need, all staff in the Government Equalities Office can be authorised to work from home.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which trade unions represent members of staff in the Government Equalities Office. [212473]

Barbara Follett: The trade unions who represent staff in the Government Equalities Office are Public and Commercial Services (PCS), FDA and Prospect.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much timber and timber products were procured by the Government Equalities Office originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner since its establishment; and at what cost. [213762]

Barbara Follett: None.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Solicitor-General how many Crown Prosecution Service personnel are employed in *(a)* Rhyl and *(b)* Colwyn Bay. [214143]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service does not have an office in Rhyl. Cases originating from this area are dealt with by staff based in Colwyn Bay. There are 42 members of staff working in the Colwyn Bay office.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* date, *(b)* venue, *(c)* total cost and *(d)* per capita cost of all internal staff parties held by (i) the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and (ii) other agencies in her Department have been in the last 12 months. [211781]

The Solicitor-General: There has been only one internal staff party held by the Attorney-General's Office and its superintended Departments in the last 12 months. This was held by the Serious Fraud Office on 5 October 2007 at the Serious Fraud Office, Elm House. The total cost was £685.59, the per capita cost was £4.66.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Solicitor-General how many reports of assaults on prison staff by inmates, made with a view to prosecution, the Crown Prosecution Service received in each of the last five years for which records are available; and how many such cases were prosecuted. [213840]

The Solicitor-General: The central records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service include no information on either the employment of victims of crime or the custodial status of defendants. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212518]

Mr. Woodward: The Robert Hamill inquiry, the Rosemary Nelson inquiry, and the Billy Wright inquiry are independent public inquiries which have been established by my office in the last five years. Their terms of reference, announced on 16 November 2004, are:

The Robert Hamill inquiry

To inquire into the death of Robert Hamill with a view to determining whether any wrongful act or omission by or within the Royal Ulster Constabulary facilitated his death or obstructed the investigation of it, or whether attempts were made to do so; whether any such act or omission was intentional or negligent; whether the investigation of his death was carried out with due diligence; and to make recommendations.

The Rosemary Nelson inquiry

To inquire into the death of Rosemary Nelson with a view to determining whether any wrongful act or omission by or within the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland Office, Army or other state agency facilitated her death or obstructed the investigation of it, or whether attempts were made to do so, whether any such act or omission was intentional or negligent, whether the investigation of her death was carried out with due diligence; and to make recommendations.

The Billy Wright inquiry

To inquire into the death of Billy Wright with a view to determining whether any wrongful act or omission by or within the prison authorities or other state agencies facilitated his death, or whether attempts were made to do so; whether any such act or omission was intentional or negligent; and to make recommendations.

The costs to the end of May 2008 of each public inquiry are:

	£ million
The Robert Hamill inquiry	15.62
The Rosemary Nelson inquiry	27.84
The Billy Wright inquiry	16.75

The inquiries have not yet completed.

Devolution

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what discussions took place regarding the Irish language at recent talks between the Government, Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party; [213114]

(2) what discussions took place on the devolution of criminal justice and policing at recent talks between the Government, Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party; [213115]

(3) what subjects were discussed at his talks with the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin at the time of the establishment of the new Northern Ireland Executive; what the outcomes were of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [213120]

Mr. Woodward: The recent talks between the Government and the Northern Ireland First and deputy First Ministers covered a number of issues including the forward investment strategy for Northern Ireland, the economic situation, devolution of policing and justice, continuing concerns around paramilitary organisations, parades, sites, the Irish language and education.

The First and deputy First Ministers have confirmed that these discussions will continue in Belfast, involving all the parties in the Assembly.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services by the Department; and if he will make a statement. [210465]

Mr. Woodward: As responsibility for equality matters in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (stemming from statutory obligations arising from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998) has been devolved to a local administration, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has no direct responsibility for the development of proposals to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services.

Irish Language: Broadcasting

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the purposes are of the £6 million allocated by his Department for Irish language broadcasting; and if he will make a statement. [213118]

Mr. Woodward: The additional money is being provided to enable the Irish Language Broadcast Fund to continue beyond its current end date of 2009 to the end of the CSR period.

The fund was established in response to the Joint Declaration of 2003 for the purpose of providing financial support for Irish language film and television production.

Water Charges

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes are to be made to the financial arrangements regarding water charges following recent talks between the Government, Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party. [213116]

Mr. Woodward: Policy on water is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Executive within the context of the UK public expenditure system.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were (*a*) cautioned, (*b*) prosecuted and (*c*) given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [191297]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons issued with: a caution, penalty notice for disorder and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to people under the age of 18-years-old in England and Wales for 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Table 1: The number of persons issued with a caution and proceeded against at magistrates courts for a certain alcohol offences in England and Wales for the year 2006[1, 2, 4, 5]

Offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Caution*[3]
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	736	22
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	395	36
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	1	3
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18	17	

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data Includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises. Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1).

Sale of alcohol to person under 18. Licensing Act 2003 S. 146(1).

Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec. 17.

Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18. Licensing Act 2003 Sec. 147(1) and (5).

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the data.

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Sale of alcohol to person under 18 in England and Wales for the year 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Sale of alcohol to person under 18
2006	3,195

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:

Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18—s.146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003.

[3] New legislative reference with effect from 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animal experiments carried out between 2002 and 2004 had death as an end point, broken down by categories of usage defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [201170]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office does not authorise death as an experimental end point. Where death as a result of the authorised treatment or procedure can be expected, we strive to set earlier end points so that animals are killed before they reach a point at which death would occur. We do not, therefore, collect or hold the information requested.

Extradition: USA

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited from the UK to the US to face charges connected to terrorism in the last three years. [200653]

Meg Hillier: Since 1 January 2005, one person has been extradited from the UK to the US on terrorism-related charges.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of East Yorkshire and Humberside had samples of DNA recorded on the national DNA database as a result of being sampled by Humberside Police at the latest date for which figures are available. [198855]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 22 April 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 71W, in which the figures for Yorkshire and Humberside were provided.

Identity and Passport Service: Glasgow

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information was considered in advance of the decision to downgrade the Glasgow office of the Passport Agency. [199977]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) modelled in detail the numbers and types of staff likely to be needed to undertake the back office operations from now until post 2017. This showed that, despite increasing volume from ID card demand, there will be a reduction in traditional examining and related production and customer support posts in IPS, due to the process efficiencies to be delivered from increasing automation and processing by the new Application and Examination system. These changes put pressure on IPS to adopt a more efficient operating model and to adjust its staff structure in some offices. Glasgow emerged for this proposal for the reasons that it has a relatively small production capacity; it currently has lower output per full-time equivalent compared to the larger offices; it already has an established capability for carrying out post issue counter fraud activity and there are opportunities for redeployment. The service to the public will remain the same.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision to downgrade the Glasgow office of the Passport Agency was taken. [199978]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) Board met on 31 March 2008 to consider the proposal to remove back office operations from Glasgow office. IPS is now in a 90 days consultation period with the trade union side which must be completed before IPS can make a final decision on how to proceed. That consultation period started on 8 April 2008.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Identity and Passport Service instructed Post Office Ltd to redirect mail for the Glasgow office of the Passport Agency to centres in Peterborough and Durham. [199979]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has not instructed Post Office Ltd to redirect mail for the Glasgow Passport Agency to IPS offices in Peterborough and Durham. Postal application processing continues at the Glasgow office.

Identity and Passport Service: Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Identity and Passport Service spent on translation services for those applying for a passport in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [191192]

Meg Hillier: In the 2006 calendar year IPS spent £3,000 on translation services. In the 2007 calendar year IPS spent £117,000 on translation services. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Identity Cards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how a single audit trail will be created from the identity card transactions linked to the biometric, biographic and administrative databases which will make up the National Identity Register. [202451]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* An audit record will be kept of occasions when an individual's record is checked or amended. The biometric, biographic and administrative components of the national identity register will each have their own audit record so information from these individual audit records will only be brought together to support the security of the register, in the interests of national security or the prevention and detection of serious crime, or to respond to an individual's request for data subject access.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fingerprints from a person's hand are planned to be recorded and stored on identity cards. [210838]

Meg Hillier: The information, including the number of biometric fingerprints to be recorded and stored in the chip on the identity card for British citizens, will be prescribed in secondary legislation to be approved by Parliament under section 6 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. However, our intention is that during the enrolment process we will record 10 fingerprint images which will be stored on the national identity register with two of the holder's fingerprints stored on the chip on the identity card. This is also the procedure planned for the identity card to be issued to foreign nationals.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the biometric fingerprints to be stored on the National Identity Register will be rolled or plain impressions; and how many fingerprints will be stored on the register. [209347]

Meg Hillier: The precise manner of enrolment of fingerprint biometrics has yet to be finalised for identity cards to be issued to British citizens under the Identity Cards Act 2006. However, it is intended that 10 plain fingerprints will be recorded and stored on the national identity register. This will be compatible with fingerprint biometrics recorded for identity cards to be issued to foreign nationals under the UK Borders Act 2007.

Organised Crime: Crime Prevention

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of funding from the Tackling Gangs Action Programme has been allocated to Greater London. [210814]

Mr. Coaker: The Tackling Gangs Action Programme committed £1.5 million of funds to build on enforcement, community reassurance, risk management and Third Sector delivery in neighbourhoods within Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester where guns and gangs have caused serious harm. Over £573,000 of this funding was allocated for work in parts of London. A further £1 million is being allocated to the four areas for enforcement, intelligence, safeguarding, prevention, and community reassurance work.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 410W, on passports, what the reason is for the difference in current average processing time for straightforward, properly completed passport applications between each of the regional offices excluding London. [197457]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: The amount of postal work received in each office in 2006 varied according to the local catchment area, transfers of work between offices to match short-term capacity to demand, and the office's capacity to deal with the applications received. The policy is to ensure that all straightforward, properly completed applications are processed within 10 days. In 2006, the average time within which applications were processed ranged from 3.4 to 5.3 working days.

Research Development and Statistics Directorate: Publications

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of reports produced by her Department's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate have been published in the last 10 years; and what the titles of the unpublished reports are. [200356]

Meg Hillier: Most Home Office research reports are published except when the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser decides not to publish in a Home Office series on the grounds of inadequate scientific quality following independent and external peer review or the results are badly out of date or on public interest grounds.

Since 1998 a total of 993 research and statistics outputs have been completed and published. Details of these publications are available on the Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsintro1.html.

We have not identified any publishable research reports produced in the period 1997-2001 that have not been published, but completing a full search of available records cannot be undertaken without incurring disproportionate cost.

For the period 2001-08 the following 22 completed research reports were produced but have not been published. This excludes projects where no report of publishable standard was produced. During the period 2001-08, 800 research outputs were published, hence the percentage not published in this period is just over 2 per cent.

Reports where a decision was made for the research to have limited distribution on the grounds of security, or practical operational considerations

Merseyside Middle Market Drugs Unit Evaluation and Middle Market Drug Evaluation Wales (Operation Tarian)

An Examination of Referrals to Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels in 2002-03.

Dealing with Mentally Disordered Offenders in the National Probation Service

Enforcement of warrants

ECP placement providers

Information held on forensic databases

Research into police complaints

Exploring the geodemographic and distant relationships between stranger rapists and their offences

Predicting the accuracy of stranger rape victims' statements

Homicide enquiries that begin as missing persons enquiries

Research into gay victim homicides

The Sentencer Information Service (SIS)

Research that was not published

Neighbourhood wardens: an evaluation of selected schemes

Approved premises: referrals, admissions and outcomes

Implementing Diversionary Restorative Justice: Lessons learnt

Process study of offender management in the North West region

Organised crime: revenues, economic and social costs, and criminal assets available for seizure

Completed research where release has not been confirmed at this time

UK annex to "Conditions of entry and residence of third country highly skilled workers in the EU": a European Migration Network (EMN) study[1]

UK annex to "Return": an EMN study[1]

Anti-social and other problem behaviours among young children: patterns and associated child characteristics

Characteristics associated with resilience in children at high risk of involvement in antisocial behaviour

Anti-social and other problem behaviours among young children: findings from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Childhood.

[1] Approval to publish has been given for these reports.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1203W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the cost was of providing care and support to troops injured during service in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in 2007-08. [214219]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Burghfield: Planning Permission

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South of 5 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on AWE Burghfield, what the timetable is for submission of all proposed planning applications at *(a)* AWE Burghfield and *(b)* AWE Aldermaston. [213572]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table represents the latest programme position for the submission of planning applications for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield as included in the Site Development Context Plan 2005-15, updated in April 2008.

Project	*Site*	*Timing of planning application*
Conventional Manufacturing Facility	Burghfield	With West Berkshire planning authority
Assembly/Disassembly Facility	Burghfield	Last quarter of 2008
Enriched Uranium Facility	Aldermaston	Early 2009
Hydrodynamics Facility Main and Support Building	Aldermaston	Mid 2009
Systems Engineering Facility	Aldermaston	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined[1]
Small Scale Formulations	Aldermaston	[1]—
Chemical Processing	Burghfield	[1]—
Emergency Response Capability Facility Training Extension	Burghfield	[1]—
Combined Non Metallurgy and Material Science	Burghfield	[1]—
High Performance Computer	Aldermaston	[1]—
New Office Accommodation Phase 3	Aldermaston	[1]—
Landscaping	Aldermaston	Planning permission not required[2]
Landscaping	Aldermaston and Burghfield	[2]—

Defence Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* weapons mounted installation kits, *(b)* Warrior vehicles, *(c)* Saxon vehicles, *(d)* Scimitar vehicles, *(e)* combat vehicle reconnaissance tracked vehicles and *(f)* 0.5 inch heavy machine guns have been fit for service in each year since 2003. [191444]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are currently compiling information from a range of sources which will take some time to complete. I will therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Nick Harvey:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 6 March 2008 (Official Report, column 2709W) about equipments fit for service and available for Army training.

The percentage of specific equipments fit for service in each year since 2005 are shown in the table below. Information is not available prior to 2005.

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
WMIK	72	70	71	76
WARRIOR	62	53	44	46
SAXON	62	65	33	33
CVR(T)[1]	67	56	50	50

[1] CVRT figures include SCIMITAR (which is a CVR(T) variant)

The main SAXON variant—the General War Role (GWR) was drawn down and disposed of in 2007 leaving two much smaller fleets of specialist SAXON variants. Relatively minor fluctuations in availability in these small fleets have a marked effect on the overall percentage compared to their effect on the previously existing significantly larger fleet. Availability data is not collated centrally for 0.5 inch Heavy Machine Gun.

You also asked about specified equipment types available for Army training in each year since 1997.

In theory the whole fleet is available for training including the deployed assets since some training is undertaken in operational theatres, although, of course, at any one time a number of equipments will be under repair, maintenance, conversion etc.

This number will vary from day to day and we do not maintain statistics on average availability. We can however provide snapshots as I did in my reply of 20 February 2008 (Official Report, column 699W). I attach a copy of the relevant Hansard extract.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212863]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in Financial Year 2006-07 the Department spent over £600 million on property and other infrastructure capital investment (not including equivalent PFI expenditure). The diverse nature of the estate means that this investment could relate to projects ranging from new housing and accommodation blocks to resurfacing of runways and specialist military infrastructure.

Refurbishment of property is not readily distinguishable from other maintenance expenditure except to the extent that costs are capitalised and included within other capital investment.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213418]

Derek Twigg: In accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 15, the Department is required to undertake a professional 'existing use' valuation of its estate at least every five years. The Ministry of Defence fulfils this obligation with a five year rolling valuation programme where 25 per cent. of the estate is valued in the first four years and the fifth year is used to capture any residual assets. The last five year programme ended in financial year 2007-08.

Between formal valuation, asset values are revised annually using indices provided by the Defence Analytical Services Agency. Where assets are held for disposal they are valued at open market value and are subject to annual revaluation.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213695]

Derek Twigg: In March 2006 the Department introduced the Defence Related Environmental Assessment Methodology (DREAM), which the Office of Government Commerce recognises as equivalent to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), for Ministry of Defence construction projects.

The value of each project completed to these standards is not separately identifiable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The numbers of assessments completed to these standards for the years in which information is available is shown in the following tables. The smaller proportion of projects reaching the top standards in the first two years is due to the fact that project teams were still developing their understanding of environmental performance assessments and how best to meet these new requirements.

	Assessment method	*Total new builds assessed*	*Number new builds reaching excellent standard*	*Number new builds reaching very good standard*
2005-06	BREEAM	49	3	6
2006-07	DREAM	18	9	3
2007-08	DREAM	9	9	0

	Assessment method	*Total refurbishments assessed*	*Number refurbishments reaching excellent standard*	*Number refurbishments reaching very good standard*
2005-06	BREEAM	32	1	1
2006-07	DREAM	4	2	2
2007-08	DREAM	9	7	0

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211691]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213417]

Derek Twigg: Under the Lyons review, the MOD plans to relocate some 5,000 civil service and military posts out of London and the South East by March 2010. This is against the MOD's Lyons relocation target of 3,900 that was agreed and published as part of the 2004 spending review.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212029]

Derek Twigg: Ministry of Defence accounts for the 2007-08 financial year are currently being audited, so final figures on marketing and branding expenditure are not yet available.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Eurofighter Typhoons are now in service with the RAF; when the remainder are scheduled to enter service; and if he will make a statement. [213038]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Forty-nine Tranche 1 aircraft are now in service with the RAF. Deliveries from Tranche 2 (91 aircraft) are planned to commence in September 2008 and to continue until 2013-14. Negotiations with Partner Nations and industry on Tranche 3 are under way and expected to continue throughout this year.

India: Defence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on *(a)* joint military training and *(b)* co-production of defence equipment since the joint declaration with India on 20 September 2004. [212194]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been a significant increase in the breadth and depth of defence co-operation between UK and India since the Joint Declaration of 2004, and combined military training involving all three Services is an important dimension of our security relationship.

The UK also has a strong commitment to partnering with India in the field of defence equipment production. We are well placed to support India's efforts to develop a sustainable defence manufacturing sector that produces a positive contribution to the economies of both UK and India.

The growing relationship is underpinned by a regular dialogue between our respective Defence Ministries at the highest level that provides for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of experience as well as a forum for the resolution of any problems.

Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage shortfall in availability of spare parts for each type of Royal Air Force *(a)* fast jet, *(b)*, tanker and transport aircraft and *(c)* maritime reconnaissance aircraft. [212018]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The off the shelf satisfaction rate (OTSSR), defined as the percentage of demands for spares satisfied direct from MOD stock, is as follows.

Aircraft	*OTSSR*[1] *(percentage)*
Typhoon	72
Harrier	97
Tornado F3	97
Tornado GR4	98
Hawk	[2]
Tristar	87
VC10	86
C-17A Globemaster	[2]
Nimrod MR2	97

[1] As at 30 April 2008.

[2] Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured.

For Hercules C130, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2178W.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213553]

Derek Twigg: The MOD does not generally fund the commissioning or production of any television programmes. Documentaries are funded by the television companies that pay for additional use of MOD assets.

The Ministry of Defence has, however, partially funded one television series in the period stated. This series was entitled 'Everest Man to Man' and was jointly funded by the Army and the Bravo television channel. The Army invested £230,000 in the Bravo production, which was a six part documentary showing the variety and challenges of life in the service and the quality and training of personnel.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213728]

(2) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213729]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD policy requires that all timber or wood-containing products, excluding paper, paper products and card, must be procured from legal sources. In addition, every effort is to be made to acquire these items from a sustainable source. Where practicable, the use of reclaimed, re-used or recycled timber or timber products should be considered.

These requirements have been published in a Department Timber Strategy which can be found on the MOD website at

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/HealthandSafety/DSC/ModTimberStrategy.htm

This strategy incorporates the revised Government requirements for procurement of timber, which will apply from 2009 and 2015 respectively.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Infrastructure Levy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the community infrastructure levy will be chargeable upon extensions to domestic dwellings. [213885]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our publication on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) published on 24 January set out, at paragraph 78, that the Government do not intend that CIL liability will arise in relation to householder development by homeowners.

The 24 January CIL publication "The Community Infrastructure Levy" is available in the House Library.

Further announcements on the CIL will be made shortly.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish the national strategy for geographical information; and if she will make a statement. [211260]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is expected that 'Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom' will be published, with a full statement, before the summer recess.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to issue a formal response to the Carsberg review on home information packs. [213921]

Caroline Flint: Sir Bryan Carsberg's report stresses the importance of improving both information and service provision through better regulation.

We will consider Sir Bryan's recommendations in conjunction with the Stakeholder Panel on Home Buying and Selling.

Homelessness

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of homelessness was in each region in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* disability. [212347]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

National and regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation are published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 12 June 2008, and provides national and regional acceptance figures in table 3, and temporary accommodation figures in table 7, both dating back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

Information collected on acceptances includes details on *(a)* the ethnicity of the applicant, and *(b)* acceptances found to be in priority need through vulnerable due to the applicant or member of the household having a physical disability or mental illness/disability. Though the information is collected on a quarterly basis, extracting 10 years worth of data would exceed disproportionate cost thresholds. We have provided three years worth of data in the answer: for 1998-99 (10 years ago), 2003-04 (when total acceptances peaked), and 2007-08 (the most recent year for which data are available).

(a) Table 1 shows the total number of accepted households in each region by ethnicity 1998-99, 2003-04 and 2007-08:

Table 1: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, by ethnicity

1998-99

	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other ethnicity*	*Not stated*	*Total acceptances*
North East	4,080		30	30	330	4,460
North West	10,000	220	400	220	2,260	13,090
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,040	150	400	210	410	8,200
East Midlands	6,710	140	370	80	350	7,650
West Midlands	11,350	810	1,080	300	440	13,990
East of England	7,810	130	170	170	400	8,690
London	11,510	5,340	2,430	5,070	2,240	26,590
South East	11,310	220	350	280	520	12,860
South West	8,440	90	50	80	270	8,930
England	78,250	7,090	5,280	6,440	7,200	104,270

2003-04

	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other ethnic origin*	*Not known*	*Total acceptances*
North East	7,630	100	80	150	400	8,350
North West	15,250	630	660	620	880	18,040
Yorkshire and the Humber	11,500	440	470	1,470	2,300	16,190
East Midlands	7,950	410	420	290	530	9,600
West Midlands	11,730	1,230	1,280	680	680	15,600
East of England	9,670	230	280	470	540	11,190
London	11,100	9,210	3,310	4,850	1,620	30,080
South East	13,220	350	440	560	590	15,150
South West	10,030	350	80	360	400	11,230
England	98,080	12,960	7,020	9,430	7,930	135,420

2007-08

	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Mixed ethnicity*	*Other ethnicity*	*Not stated*	*Total acceptances*
North East	3,370	70	80	20	40	40	3,600
North West	7,170	390	320	140	190	330	8,540
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,540	370	380	150	150	760	7,350
East Midlands	4,120	270	190	110	50	40	4,780
West Midlands	6,100	850	850	270	290	790	9,160
East of England	5,130	240	200	90	60	200	5,910
London	5,340	4,320	1,590	520	1,070	960	13,800

	2007-08						
	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Mixed ethnicity*	*Other ethnicity*	*Not stated*	*Total acceptances*
South East	4,740	220	190	80	80	200	5,510
South West	4,000	180	50	60	40	210	4,520
England	45,490	6,900	3,860	1,430	1,980	3,510	63,170

Note:
Some totals may differ slightly from those in the Statistical Release, due to rounding

(b) Table 2 shows the number of accepted households in each region where the priority need category was being vulnerable as a result of (i) physical disability and (ii) mental illness or disability in 1998-99, 2003-04, and 2007-08:

Table 2: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, by priority need category

	Applicant/household vulnerable due to:		
	(i) Physical disability	*(ii) Mental illness or disability*	*All priority need categories*
1998-99			
North East	170	180	4,460
North West	390	650	13,090
Yorkshire and the Humber	240	430	8,200
East Midlands	250	310	7,650
West Midlands	500	670	13,990
East of England	420	800	8,690
London	1,820	2,480	26,590
South East	660	1,240	12,660
South West	530	500	8,930
England	4,980	7,250	104,270
2003-04			
North East	310	580	8,350
North West	730	1,290	18,040
Yorkshire and the Humber	590	1,120	16,190
East Midlands	360	610	9,600
West Midlands	610	950	15,600
East of England	680	1,400	11,190
London	2,230	3,100	30,080
South East	880	1,620	15,150
South West	740	1,410	11,230
England	7,120	12,070	135,420
2007-08			
North East	160	170	3,600
North West	380	510	8,540
Yorkshire and the Humber	330	470	7,350
East Midlands	190	270	4,780
West Midlands	330	450	9,160
East of England	310	480	5,910
London	800	970	13,800
South East	320	450	5,510
South West	280	360	4,520
England	3,090	4,140	63,170

Note:
Some totals may differ slightly from those in the Statistical Release, due to rounding

Information collected on households in temporary accommodation does not contain detailed ethnicity or disability details, but, since 2006-07, does provide the number of households where the applicant belonged to an ethnic minority group. Table 3 shows the number of ethnic minority households in temporary accommodation by region since 2006-07.

Table 3: Total households in temporary accommodation, at end of each financial year, by ethnicity

	2006-07		2007-08	
	Total in TA	*Of which: ethnic minority*	*Total in TA*	*Of which: ethnic minority*
North East	450	10	360	20
North West	2,380	470	2,190	490
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,050	220	1,790	270
East Midlands	2,050	160	1,330	110
West Midlands	1,620	230	1,550	450
East of England	5,190	330	4,290	270
London	59,810	35,900	55,500	36,090
South East	8,440	960	6,320	800
South West	5,140	330	4,180	240
England	87,120	38,610	77,510	38,740

Since 1998, information has been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. A table showing rough sleeper counts by region for the past 10 years is available in the Library of the House.

Details on rough sleeper ethnicities and disabilities are not collected centrally.

Housing: Construction

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings have been built in each region in the last three years; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of new dwellings which will be completed in the next two years. [213384]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows annual new house building completions in each region in England between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	7,637	8,193	7,976
North West	20,619	18,110	19,174
Yorkshire and Humber	16,035	16,391	15,669
East Midlands	16,886	18,153	17,624

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
West Midlands	16,191	15,101	13,520
East	20,251	22,598	22,529
London	18,809	21,997	19,854
South East	28,209	27,578	30,502
South West	18,761	19,456	20,653
England	163,398	167,577	167,501

Source:
P2/P2a house building returns from local authorities and National House Building Council on new build completions.

The Department does not publish forecasts for house building.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable houses are forecast to be built in settlements of less than 10,000 in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; [212903]

(2) how many affordable homes in settlements of less than 10,000 were completed in each year since 1997. [212905]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have substantially increased our investment in affordable housing, with £8.4 billion being invested initially through the Housing Corporation, and then the Homes and Communities Agency over the next three years. This is planned to deliver 70,000 affordable homes a year by 2010-11, of which 45,000 will be for social rent.

We have set the Housing Corporation a target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in settlements of less than 3,000 between 2008-09 and 2010-11. We have not set any targets for settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000.

We have only partial information on affordable housing completions in settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000, which would not provide a representative picture.

Housing: Rodents

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the background data on rodent presence in domestic properties collected as part of each of the English House Condition Survey reports since 1997. [213540]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The report on the 1996 data was published in 1999 as: "MAFF (1999) Rodent infestations in domestic properties in England: a report arising from the 1996 English House Condition Survey. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Crown Copyright 1999. PB 4822". A copy of this was placed in the House of Commons Library at the time.

The 2001 report is available on the DEFRA website. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

A further report on 2002-04 will be available soon.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to revise her targets for the decent homes standard to be met by 2010; and if she will make a statement. [212333]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government remain committed to making all social housing decent and to increasing the proportion of private housing in decent condition occupied by vulnerable groups. Some social landlords will need to go beyond 2010 to make their stock decent, and individual dates have been agreed. But based on returns from social landlords, we are currently still expecting 95 per cent. decency by 2010. Progress towards meeting the private sector decent homes target is ahead of trajectory.

Housing: Thermal Insulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has evaluated on the effect of installation of cavity wall insulation on dampness in buildings. [212602]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have conducted research on the subject of driving rain and damp penetration through cavity walls and this work was published within Building Research Establishment (BRE) Digest 127—'Index of exposure to driving rain', and the BRE booklet—'Rain penetration of cavity walls: report of a survey of properties in England and Wales'.

This research formed part of the evidence which led to the development and revision of two relevant British Standards; BS 8208 Part 1:1985 'Guide to assessment of suitability of external cavity walls for filling with thermal insulation', and BS 8104: 1992—'Code of practice for assessing exposure of walls to wind-driven rain'. A simplified version of these British Standards is incorporated within Building Regulations Approved Document Part C—'Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture'.

Multiple Occupation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of homes converted to multiple occupancy in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [213482]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the implications of recent High Court ruling in relation to the unauthorised Traveller camp on green belt land at Crays Hill, Essex; and whether she plans to revise planning regulation or guidance as a result. [213588]

Mr. Iain Wright: The High Court judgment handed down on 9 May 2008 is a matter for those who were party to the claims made to the High Court. The Secretary of State is not party to the claim and does not intend to make a statement. The Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement examined the Government's planning framework for Gypsies and Travellers and found it to be essentially sound. There are currently no plans to revise it.

Travelling People: East of England

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis is for the projection in the East of England Single Issue Revision Consultation that the Gypsy and Traveller population in the east of England will show an annual increase of 3 per cent. in the future. [213445]

Mr. Iain Wright: The East of England Regional Assembly published in February 2008 its draft Single Issue Review "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England." This will be subject to an Examination in Public in October 2008.

Guidance on assessing the likely growth in household formation for the period beyond 2011 is contained in the document "Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies", published in March 2007, a copy of which is available on the Department's website. This report stated that a household growth rate of 3 per cent. a year compound would provide the best indication of long-term requirements in assessing the future need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Leonard Cheshire Foundation: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he last met representatives of Leonard Cheshire Disability to discuss their funding. [212651]

Phil Hope: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Centres

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of children's centres to local communities. [214114]

Beverley Hughes: There is a comprehensive national level evaluation of Sure Start in place, which began in January 2001 and will run until 2010. To date 27 reports have been published, including the latest Impact Study findings in March 2008. These can be found at

> http://www.surestartgov.uk/research/evaluations/ness/nesspublications/.

The findings of the latest Impact Study evaluation conducted when the children were three years old found that living in an area with a Children's Centre that was formerly a Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP) was associated with positive impacts on five of the 14 outcomes investigated. Children living in former SSLP areas exhibited more positive social behaviour and greater independence/self regulation, while parents made greater use of support services, exhibited less negative parenting and provided a better home learning environment. The analysis of the most recent data shows beneficial effects for almost all children and families living in SSLP areas and provides almost no evidence of adverse effects on population sub-groups such as workless or lone parent families.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1150W, on Pre-School Education: Finance, whether the expenditure shown in the answer includes funding awarded to increase the early years entitlement to 15 hours per week. [213954]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities spent £246,003 on increasing the free early years entitlement to 15 hours per week in 2006-07 and were allocated in excess of £45 million in £2007-08 for the same purpose. These sums are in addition to the £3.6 billion for 2006-07 and £4.0 billion for 2007-08.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve career and further education guidance to young people. [213876]

Beverley Hughes: Connexions services were transferred to local authorities in April. This will help to clarify and reinforce shared responsibilities locally for young people's information, advice and guidance (IAG). It will also facilitate the development of better integrated services more attuned to local needs. The Education and Skills Bill will make the delivery of Connexions services a statutory duty of local authorities. It also requires schools to deliver careers education impartially and to have regard to principles of careers education and to good practice guidance linked to the principles.

In March the Secretary of State wrote to all local authorities, setting out his expectations for the Improvement of IAG, emphasising their key role within 14-19 partnerships for improving IAG to young people on learning options. Furthermore strong emphasis on IAG in the Diploma Gateway process has meant that only those consortia with effective IAG provision are able to deliver the new Diplomas.

The aforementioned measures provide a context through which the quality of provision will be raised. Further improvements are being made through

> The launch, in April 2008, of the new IAG support programme which will provide online support and resources, including good practice materials, briefing on key learning and careers issues and high quality careers materials for use in the classroom. The programme also includes the development of an online guide for practitioners which will provide up-to-date, impartial

information on learning options that can be printed off for young people and their parents and carers.

The commissioning of research in 2008 that will help us to profile the skills gaps of careers coordinators in schools. This will, in due course, lead to the development of new continuing professional development provision for careers staff.

The publication by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) of a new 'Framework for Economic Well-being 11-19: career, work-related learning and enterprise'.

The commissioning of the Training and Development Agency (TDA) to review the support that they provide for the delivery of careers education in schools.

The development of arrangements for the provision of a free consultancy service, which will help 14-19 consortia to map their provision against the IAG quality standards and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Consortia will be able to draw down help from the Diploma support programme to help them to respond to identified weaknesses.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Animal Welfare: Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider the merits of ensuring *(a)* the disclosure of non-commercially sensitive information and data in product records relating to animal testing of cosmetics and *(b)* the sharing of such data to avoid the need for repeat experiments in respect of European Council Directive 76/768. [211599]

Mr. Thomas: The seventh amendment to the cosmetics directive introduced a requirement that data on animal testing relating to cosmetic products or their ingredients, and performed by manufacturers, their agents or suppliers, be included in the product information accessible to the competent authorities (Article 7a(1)(h)). This requirement is now contained in the Cosmetic Product (Safety) Regulations 2008 Article 16(1)(i).

However, the UK has operated a voluntary ban on the testing of cosmetic products on animals since 1996. This ban was made compulsory on 11 September 2004, with the implementation of the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/2152), which implement the seventh amendment to the EU Council directive on the safety of cosmetic products and which introduced a ban on the testing of cosmetic products in the EU.

By March 2009, cosmetic manufacturers will no longer be able to use animals to test any ingredients or combinations of ingredients for cosmetic purposes, even if alternative methods are unavailable. The same deadline sees the introduction of a marketing ban in the Union on any cosmetic product whose ingredients have been tested on animals. The only exception will be certain toxicity tests for which the deadline has been extended for four years to 2013.

At present virtually the only tests on cosmetic ingredients that are carried out in the EU relate to substances which are already in use in cosmetics and for which safety concerns have been raised, either by or to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products. If regarded as necessary, any animal tests would normally be carried out by a test house on behalf of the pan-European industry, in collaboration with the Commission and the SCCP.

Consumer Direct: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 251W, on non-departmental public bodies: finance, to the hon. Member for Brent East, what the budgeted operating cost for Consumer Direct is for 2008-09. [203913]

Mr. Thomas: Consumer Direct's allocated budget has now been agreed and will be £16.7 million for 2008-09. The budget for 2006-07 and 2007-08 was £19 million.

Consumer Direct is currently expanding its service to handle first-tier consumer advice calls in both the energy and postal sectors as of 1 October 2008. The budget stated above does not include a provision for these additional calls. Funding for these calls will be provided in the first instance by BERR and recovered from industry via a licence fee. The details are still being finalised by BERR, but there is an undertaking that Consumer Direct's extra costs will be covered.

Direct Selling: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which London boroughs have cold calling-free zones. [213805]

Mr. Thomas: This decision to set up a cold calling control zone is for local authorities. The Government do not collect this information centrally.

Labelling

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the regulations governing food and clothing labelling in the UK; and whether there is a requirement to include country of origin on clothing. [213598]

Mr. Thomas: The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) (Amendment) Regulations 1986 require that all textile products bear an accurate indication of their fibre content and that the indication should consist only of permitted generic names for fibres. A textile product is a product which contains at least 80 per cent. by weight of textile fibres.

Generally speaking, there is no requirement in the law of the UK to include the origin, care or size of textile products. There is nothing to prevent voluntary labelling on those matters but this would be subject to the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, which require traders not to mislead consumers.

Food labelling regulations are a matter for the Department of Health.

Overseas Trade: China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and China; how much his Department spent on trade promotion between the United Kingdom and China in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [209099]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(a) My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform joined my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister at the January 2008 UK-China Summit with Premier Wen in Beijing, where a new bilateral trade target was agreed of $60 billion trade in goods and services by 2010. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also attended a parallel business summit, with accompanying business matching event—the first large joint initiative arising out of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2007 to help promote more balanced bilateral trade between the UK and China. My right hon. Friend also visited Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China on 4-6 June to meet influential business and government leaders, and to promote the strengths of UK business.

(b) My right hon. Friend is expected to lead a business delegation to Beijing this autumn to discuss market access issues and practical initiatives to promote bilateral and more balanced trade at the next meeting of the annual bilateral Joint Economic Trade Commission.

UK Trade and Investment spent £3.213 million on trade promotion in 2007-08, including £1.7 million in grant in aid to the China-Britain Business Council.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice he has received on the extent to which state aid to the Post Office is permissible under EU law. [214156]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government already compensate Post Office Ltd for the provision of Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI). The legal base for this is the Community Framework for State Aid in the form of public service compensation. The compensation enables Post Office Ltd to maintain a network beyond its optimum commercial size and provide the services required of it by the Government.

Any further public funding of individual post offices would need to be assessed on a case by case basis for its compatibility with the state aid rules.

TREASURY

Banks

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the draft Banking Reform Bill; and if he will make a statement. [213513]

Kitty Ussher: We will be publishing a further consultation on our banking reform proposals shortly, and intend additionally to publish some draft clauses on a consultative basis before the House rises for the summer recess. The Government intend to bring forward the legislation this autumn.

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are planned to be taken through the Financial Action Task Force to ensure that certain Iranian banks cannot abuse the international banking system to support proliferation activities and terrorism. [212044]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has expressed concern that the Islamic Republic of Iran's lack of a comprehensive regime for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) represents a significant vulnerability within the international financial system. In addition to its role in setting and monitoring standards for AML/CFT in general, the FATF has warned the financial sector of the risks posed by Iran and advised jurisdictions on implementation of the financial provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions relating to Iran's nuclear activities.

The FATF issued statements on Iran in October 2007 and February 2008. These statements warn businesses in the financial sector about the heightened risks of money laundering or terrorist financing arising from the deficiencies in Iran's AML/CFT regime, and recommend that they apply increased scrutiny and due diligence to transactions associated with Iran. The FATF has also met Iranian authorities to discuss measures to improve Iran's AML/CFT regime. The FATF is keeping the risk posed by Iran under review and discussed progress at its meetings in London this month. In response to these FATF statements, HM Treasury has issued advisory notices to UK businesses on the heightened risk of money laundering or terrorist financing from Iran.

At its June 2008 meeting in London, the FATF reaffirmed its public statement of 28 February 2008 regarding the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism risks posed by Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and São Tomé and Principe, and the northern part of Cyprus. It welcomed the actions taken by its members to advise their financial institutions of these risks, and noted it was concerned about the lack of progress by, in particular, Uzbekistan and Iran. The FATF will continue to assess the situation and take further actions in October, as necessary, to protect the international financial system.

The FATF has also produced guidance on implementation of the financial provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions relating to Iran's nuclear activities. The FATF published Guidance in July 2007 on "Implementing Financial Provisions Of UN Security Council Resolutions To Counter Proliferation Of Weapons Of Mass Destruction", including guidance on implementing targeted asset freezes as required by UNSCR 1747. In October 2007 the FATF published "Guidance Regarding The Implementation Of Activity-Based Financial Prohibitions Of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737"; advising jurisdictions on preventive measures to guard against the use of the financial system to support Iran's nuclear programmes.

A new mandate for the FATF has been agreed under the UK presidency which recognises its increased role in combating proliferation finance. The FATF will shortly publish a typology study on proliferation finance, detailing the extent of the threat and the methodologies used by proliferators.

Goldman Sachs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid in consultants' fees and other payments to Goldman Sachs in each year since 1997. [199525]

Angela Eagle: A new accounting system was introduced in 2002-03 and data on transactions prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

No record of any payments could be found for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Goldman Sachs was jointly engaged by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority to provide financial advice on Northern Rock in September 2007. The Treasury plans to publish information at a later date about the cost of the advice it received in relation to Northern Rock, including financial advice. As the Chancellor informed the chairs of the Treasury Committee and Public Accounts Committee on 11 October 2007, Northern Rock has indemnified the Treasury in respect of certain costs and expenses, including adviser costs.

Ordnance Survey: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what datasets and property attributes the Valuation Office Agency supplies to Ordnance Survey for the Ordnance Survey MasterMap Address Layer 2 product. [213541]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency supplies Ordnance Survey with the published council tax address lists and non-domestic rating lists for England and Wales.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Ordnance Survey datasets and mapping products the Valuation Office Agency uses. [213542]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency uses the following Ordnance Survey products and datasets:

1: 10 000 Scale Raster
1: 50 000 Scale Colour Raster
1: 250 000 Scale Colour Raster
Land-Line Plus®
OS MasterMap® Topography Layer
OS MasterMap® Address Layer
OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2
ADDRESS POINT®
Boundary Line™
Code Point® with Polygons.

Smuggling: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the size of the illicit market for *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel and *(d)* petrol in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [213557]

Angela Eagle: The size of the illicit markets for cigarettes and spirits is not estimated separately for Northern Ireland. Figures for the UK were published by HMRC in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007' in October 2007. The two most recent years covered were 2004-05 and 2005-06. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

Because of difficulties in measuring cross-border shopping across the border with the Republic of Ireland, it is not possible to produce estimates of the illicit market for Northern Ireland in diesel and petrol. However, estimates of the share of these markets in Northern Ireland that are not UK-duty paid were also published in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007'. The two most recent years covered were 2004-05 and 2005-06.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated total revenue loss was as a result of illegal trading in *(a)* cigarettes, *(b)* spirits, *(c)* diesel, *(d)* petrol and *(e)* counterfeit goods in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [213558]

Angela Eagle: The total revenue losses as a result of illegal trading in cigarettes and spirits are not estimated separately for Northern Ireland. Figures for the UK were published by HMRC in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007' in October 2007. The two most recent years covered were 2004-05 and 2005-06. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

Because of difficulties in measuring cross-border shopping across the border with the Republic of Ireland, it is not possible to produce estimates of the total revenue loss as a result of illegal trading in diesel and petrol for Northern Ireland. However, estimates of the share of these markets in Northern Ireland that are non-UK duty paid were also published in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007'. The two most recent years covered were 2004-05 and 2005-06.

These estimates include all forms of illicit activity and do not separately identify each of the component parts such as counterfeiting, smuggling or fraud.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library representations received in the last 12 months by the East of England Regional Offender Manager in respect of the ClearSprings contract for bail accommodation in Peterborough from *(a)* Peterborough city council, *(b)* Cambridgeshire Probation Service and *(c)* Cambridgeshire Constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [211286]

Mr. Hanson: The East of England Regional Offender Manager advises that he has received no representation from Peterborough city council, Cambridgeshire Probation Service or Cambridgeshire Constabulary in the last 12 months in relation to the ClearSprings contract for bail accommodation in Peterborough.

Cemeteries

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by his Department to local authorities on health and safety inspections of memorials and the staking of gravestones. [213658]

Bridget Prentice: A joint letter providing guidance on the need for a sensitive and proportionate response to unstable memorials was issued to all burial authorities in March 2007. A copy has been placed in the Library. We are currently considering with the Health and Safety Executive and stakeholders whether any additional guidance in this area would be helpful.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212865]

Mr. Wills: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House. The answer only takes account of those bodies that are within the Ministry's accounting boundary. It therefore excludes NDPBs.

Annexe A sets out the expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Justice (HQ) in refurbishing the Supreme Court Building.

Her Majesty's Court Service did not exist prior to April 2005. Figures are therefore only available for the least three years and are set out in Annexes B and C.

Expenditure by Her Majesty's Prison Service on new capital investment/refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years by project is set out in Annexes D and E.

The Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian have incurred no expenditure on new capital investment/refurbishment of property during the period they have been in existence.

Aggregated information on how much was spent on new capital investment and refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project in each of the past 10 years, is not held centrally by NOMS HQ and the National Probation Service.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212885]

Mr. Wills: The value of property held by *(a)* the Ministry is £7,154,531,000 and *(b)* associated public bodies is £3,089,176,062. These figures are taken from the Ministry of Justice's draft 2007-08 Resource Accounts which are, as yet, still subject to National Audit Office approval.

The Departmental value includes MOJ HQ and NOMS HQ. The NOMS HQ value includes the National Probation Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service estate whose property is held under the NOMS estate and is not disclosed within their individual published accounts.

The associated bodies' value is comprised of the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian (nil value) and Her Majesty's Courts Service. NDPBs are bodies outside the accounting boundary of the Ministry and have been excluded from this answer.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213416]

Mr. Wills: Land and buildings are included in the Ministry of Justice accounts on the basis of professional valuations which are conducted for each property at least once every five years. Each property is indexed annually in the years when a professional valuation has not been carried out.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213701]

Mr. Wills: The information is as follows:

HMCS

BREAAM is considered within the Court Building Design Guide and an integral part of process within all major refurbishment's and new builds.

HMCS		*BREAAM registered*	*Rating A*	*Rating B*	*Rating C*	*Rating D*
	2005-6	4			3	1
	2006-7	3			1	2
	2007-8	[1]				
	2008	[1]				
NOMS	2005-6	3		1		
	2006-7	10			2	
	2007-8	29				
	2008[2]	20				

[1] Not known

[2] To date

HMPS/NOMS

The period between registration and the award of a BREEAM certificate can take up to two years.

Noted from the above figures that a total of three schemes only have so far been awarded a certificate. Custodial property is currently reviewing this situation to establish the current status of the outstanding registrations with a view to achieving certification.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (a) new builds and (b) major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department and its predecessor in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213748]

Mr. Wills: The number of new builds and major refurbishments with a value of excess of £0.5 million completed by the Ministry and its predecessor in (i) 2005-06 (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

	New Builds	*Major Refurbishments*
2005-06	23	33
2006-07	27	51
2007-08	22	56

The answer only takes account of bodies that are within the Ministry's accounting boundary. It therefore excludes NDPBs.

No new builds or major refurbishments with a value in excess of £0.5 million were completed in 2005-06, 2006-07 or 2007-08 in MOJ HQ, the Tribunals Service or the Office of the Public Guardian. There are no records held centrally by NOMS HQ and the National Probation Service on new builds/major refurbishments completed in 2005-06, 2006-07 and none were completed of that value in 2007-08.

Departmental Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 979-80W, on departmental contracts, on what grounds GVA Grimley obtained a reduction in the rating valuation and business rates bills of those properties which were courts. [213579]

Maria Eagle: The following properties were previously reported as having benefited from a reduction in national non-domestic rating bills:

Barnet magistrates court;
Bristol Greyfriars;
Bury county court;
Cambridge magistrates court;
HMCS NE regional directors office;
Manchester county court;
Middlesex Guildhall Crown court;
N and W Greater Manchester MCC offices;
Northampton Bulk Issue Centre;
Nuneaton county court;
Royal Courts of Justice;
Stourbridge county court.

The following table lists those properties which were courts and the grounds for the reduction in rates bill:

Court	*Grounds for rating reduction*
Barnet Magistrates Court	Empty rates relief following vacation of building.
Bristol Greyfriars (Bristol County Court)	Rateable value reduced based on local comparator buildings of similar age size and condition
Bury County Court	Rateable value reduced based on local comparator buildings of similar age size and condition
Cambridge Magistrates Court	Rateable value reduced due to the temporary nature of the magistrates court building in Cambridge
Manchester County Court	Empty rates relief following vacation of building
Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court	Empty rates relief following vacation of building
Northampton Bulk Issue Centre (County Court Bulk Centre)	Rateable value reduced based on local comparator buildings of similar age size and condition
Nuneaton County Court	Rateable value reduced based on local comparator buildings of similar age size and condition
Royal Courts of Justice	Rateable value temporarily reduced whilst one building on the site is out of commission for refurbishment
Stourbridge County Court	Rateable value reduced based on local comparator buildings of similar age size and condition

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2007; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [213301]

Mr. Wills: The core Ministry of Justice employs staff previously employed on several sets of different terms and conditions, each with their own legacy arrangements for bonus payments.

The information provided as follows relates to former Department for Constitutional Affairs senior civil servants and grades below senior civil service level. For the years reported prior to 2007-08, the data exclude payments to magistrates courts staff (who became civil servants in this Department in April 2005, and whose terms and conditions did normally allow for payment of performance or special bonuses), staff in the Tribunals Service and those who joined the former DCA on 1 April 2006 from other Government Departments, about whom information is not available to us for years prior to 2007.

Senior civil service bonuses received during the past five years for staff on former DCA terms and conditions

Paid in calendar year	*Staff receiving bonuses*	*Proportion receiving bonuses (percentage)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest award (£)*
2003	43	46	170,557	6,500
2004	69	72	268,900	11,200
2005	105	84	537,687	12,600
2006	118	79	821,750	17,500
2007	116	77	866,500	22,500

No bonuses have yet been paid to members of the SCS during 2008.

Bonus payments to staff below the SCS in the core Ministry of Justice are either 'performance bonuses' or 'special bonuses'.

Performance bonuses awarded during the past five years to staff on former DCA terms and conditions (not SCS)

Awarded for performance in year	Paid in calendar year	Staff receiving bonuses	Proportion receiving bonuses (percentage)	Total amount awarded £	Largest award £
2002-03	2004	1,430	9	572,060	400
2003-04	2005	1,881	13.3	752,400	400
2004-05	2006	1,995	14.1	798,000	400
2005-06	2007	1,848	13.2	739,000	400
2006-07	2007	2,419	16.3	967,966	400

Notes

1. Performance bonuses are paid to staff who are assessed to have performed over and above the standard expected from them over the course of the whole performance year.
2. Data referring to proportion of staff receiving bonuses refer only to staff on relevant terms and conditions (i.e. only include former DCA and Court Service staff but exclude staff on magistrates courts terms and conditions).
3. Information on performance bonus payments for 2008 is not yet available. These payments are implemented as part of the annual pay award which will be paid in August.
4. The information contained above excludes payments to staff on Home Office terms and conditions who transferred to the Ministry of Justice with the establishment of the Ministry in May 2007. Details of any payments to these staff are included in the answer provided to this question by the Home Office.

Special bonuses received during the past five years for staff on former DCA terms and conditions (not SCS)

Paid in financial year	Staff receiving bonuses	Proportion receiving bonuses (percentage)	Total amount awarded (£)	Largest award (£)
2002-03	995	7	253,258	
2003-04	447	3.1	343,347	
2004-05	1,649	11.6	412,898	5,304
2005-06	1,809	12.8	487,753	5,000
2006-07	3,773	31	894,169	5,000
2007-08[1]	5,327	19	2,348,520	4,000

[1] Reflects increased staff complement—see note 5.

1. Special bonuses are paid to staff 'in year' for exceptional contribution over and above that normally expected.
2. Data shown in the table shows payments for each financial year from 2002-03. Comprehensive information is not yet available for 2007-08.
3. Data covering largest award is not available prior to 2004 when the current recognition and reward scheme was launched.
4. Proportions refer to the number of staff eligible to be awarded special bonuses under their terms and conditions.
5. 2007-08 data covers from 1 April 2007 to 31 May 2008. From 1 August 2007 staff eligible for bonuses under this scheme included staff on former MCS terms and conditions and those staff who joined former DCA from the Tribunals Service.

HM Prison Service became an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

Information on the number and proportion of staff receiving special bonuses, the total amount of bonuses awarded and the largest payment in each year within the public sector Prison Service is contained in the following table. Payments made to staff as part of the normal staff appraisal system are not included.

Public sector Prison Service special bonuses recorded 2003-04 to June 2007

Paid in financial year	Staff receiving bonuses	Proportion receiving bonuses (percentage)	Total amount awarded (£)	Largest award (£)
2002-03	1,268	3	463,449	4,000
2003-04	1,983	4	740,443	4,000
2004-05	3,375	7	868,594	5,000
2005-06	3,004	6	983,273	15,802
2006-07	2,432	5	873,141	5,000
2007/08	3,607	7	1,571,037	20,000

Note

Special bonus payments are now administered by the Prison Service's Shared Service Centre. Data are recorded directly through the payment process rather than as a separate manual process as was the case prior to 2007-08. This change in process has lead to the apparent increase in bonus payments in 2007-08. Incorrect coding of bonus payments is also known to have caused some distortion in special bonus statistics.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has (*a*) commissioned and (*b*) evaluated on the demographic profile of those people who are most likely not to be registered to vote; what the conclusions were of such research; and if he will make a statement. [211914]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the demographic profile of people who are most likely not to be registered to vote. However, the Government did utilise some existing research in 2005 as a basis for further work towards identifying an evidence base for policy development and service targets.

The Electoral Commission found in their report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', published in September 2005 that the most likely electors not to be registered to vote included young people, those residing in private rented accommodation and those belonging to certain minority ethnic groups.

Information arising out of the evidence base and the Electoral Commission's report were used to mount a registration campaign in London for 18 to 24-year-olds and to inform work on registration, which fed into various measures in the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have made representations to his Department in favour of introducing individual electoral registration. [213545]

Bridget Prentice: A number of organisations including the Electoral Commission, the Association of Electoral Administrators, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) have all made representations to the Ministry of Justice in favour of introducing individual registration. In addition, the Committee on Standards in Public Life recommended that the Government move towards a system of individual registration in Great Britain in its report of January 2007.

The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. But this will be a far-reaching reform, and it will need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration in Great Britain.

Electoral Register: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the latest timetable is for the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors database to be fully operational; and which parts of the United Kingdom the database will cover. [213546]

Bridget Prentice: It is not possible for me to provide a firm date on which I expect CORE to be fully operational until the CORE keeper has been confirmed. The Electoral Commission is the Government's preferred choice to fulfil this role, and discussions between my officials and those in the Commission are continuing on this point. In the meantime good progress is being made: electoral register data standards are to be implemented by 1 December 2009. Throughout 2008 we will be talking to all users, including political parties and Electoral Registration Officers, to define the CORE Service Model. I expect this work to be completed in early 2009.

The CORE service will cover England, Scotland and Wales.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community legal advice centres are *(a)* funded and *(b)* planned to be funded by the Legal Services Commission. [213548]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) currently funds four community legal advice centres together with the relevant local authority. These are in Gateshead, Leicester, Derby and Portsmouth.

A preferred bidder has been identified to run the community legal advice centre in Hull, due to come into operation shortly. The LSC is in active discussions with nine further local authorities about the possibility of jointly commissioning community legal advice centres or networks for their locality, with the aim of bringing them into operation before April 2010. These are: Barking and Dagenham, Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, East Riding of Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Manchester, Stockport, Sunderland, Wakefield and West Sussex.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts to run community legal advice centres have been awarded to Citizens Advice. [213549]

Maria Eagle: Citizens advice bureaux were part of the winning bid for three community legal advice centres, in Gateshead, Derby and Portsmouth.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria the Legal Services Commission applies to decide which organisations receive the contracts to run the new community legal advice centres. [213550]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission assesses bids to provide community legal advice centres against a list of essential and desirable criteria. The document setting out the detailed criteria has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Magistrates: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates there were in each local authority area in England and Wales in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [213547]

Mr. Straw: Magistrates are appointed and assigned to Local Justice Areas by Advisory Committees. Advisory Committee areas do not accord with local authority areas, and it is therefore not possible to provide an answer in the format requested. In *(a)* 1996-97 figures were collected on a calendar year basis. Figures showing breakdown by Advisory Committee are not available for those two years.

There were 30,326 magistrates at the year ending 31 December 1996. There were 30,374 magistrates at the year ending 31 December 1997.

Figures are now collected on a financial-year basis. The following table provides a breakdown of the numbers of magistrates in each Advisory Committee area for the financial year ending 31 March 2008.

Advisory committee	*Number*
Avon	311
Barnsley	112
Batley and Dewsbury	92
Bedfordshire	309
Berkshire	373
Birmingham	420
Bolton	199
Bradford	300
Bristol	280
Buckinghamshire	373
Bury	176
Calderdale	146
Cambridgeshire	363
Carmarthen	144
Central London	449
Ceredigion	54
Cheshire	476
Clwyd	308
Cornwall	192
Coventry	235
Cumbria	287
Derbyshire	414
Devon	354
Doncaster	189
Dorset	333
Dudley	206
Durham	289
East Sussex	446
Essex	613
Gateshead	122
Gloucestershire	246
Gwent	325
Gwynedd	105
Hampshire	777
Hereford and Worcester	477
Hertfordshire	472
Huddersfield	106
Humberside	277

Advisory committee	Number
Isle of Wight	69
Keighley	123
Kent	915
Kingston on Hull	160
Knowsley	76
Lancashire	1,150
Leeds	436
Leicester	317
Leicestershire	242
Lincolnshire	373
Liverpool	327
Manchester	397
Mid Glamorgan	244
Newcastle on Tyne	251
Norfolk	449
North Cleveland	104
North East London	620
North Sefton	89
North Tyneside	152
North West London	787
North Yorkshire	402
Northamptonshire	435
Northumberland	205
Nottingham	436
Nottinghamshire	300
Oldham	179
Oxfordshire	315
Pembroke	68
Plymouth	165
Pontefract	86
Powys	87
Rochdale	185
Rotherham	116
Salford	176
Sandwell	250
Sheffield	307
Shropshire	228
Solihull	170
Somerset	260
South Cleveland	341
South East London	629
South Glamorgan	352
South Sefton	132
South Tyneside	116
South West London	752
St Helens	154
Staffordshire	577
Stockport	165
Suffolk	272
Sunderland	215
Surrey	361
Sutton Coldfield	130
Tameside	161
Trafford	156
Wakefield	95
Walsall	112
Warwickshire	203
West Glamorgan	252
West Sussex	388
Wigan	185
Wiltshire	272
Wirral	249
Wolverhampton	149
Total	29,419

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 28 March 2008 from the hon. Member for Warley on freedom of information. [213599]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) replied to the hon. Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar) on Monday 23 June 2008.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the Breaking the Circle report of the review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [213952]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1111W. The Government undertook a review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act in 2002 and published the document "Breaking the Circle" which set out proposals for reform of the Act. That paper made proposals for modifying disclosure periods for offences, and other changes to the operation of the Act. In 2003 the Government agreed that the proposals had merit and proposed to legislate when parliamentary time allowed. The position is now under review in the light of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which was based on the recommendations of the Bichard report, and which makes changes to the disclosure situation for ex-offenders in many areas of employment.

Prison Sentences

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people serving custodial sentences are serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection; and how many such people have been in custody for longer than their tariff. [213613]

Mr. Hanson: On 30 April 2008 there were 67,614 prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales under immediate custodial sentence of which 4,250 (rounded to the nearest 50) were serving sentences of imprisonment for Public Protection, or 6 per cent. of the immediate custodial population. The total of 67,614 excludes fine defaulters. prisoners held on remand and non-criminal prisoners

The Public Protection Unit of the National Offender Management Service, the pre-release section (PRS) maintains a limited database on those offenders sentenced to imprisonment for public protection (IPP). This indicates that, as at 30 April 2008, 756 such offenders were being held in prison beyond their tariff expiry date.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice of 6 May 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 59-60WA, on Prisoners: Voting Rights, if he will place in the Library a copy of the information submitted so far to the Committee of Ministers. [213583]

Bridget Prentice: Further to the answer from my noble Friend Lord Hunt on 6 May 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 59-60WA, I have placed a copy of the information submitted to the Committee of Ministers about prisoners' voting rights in the Libraries of both Houses.

Prisons: Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisons pay charges to local authorities for the collection of rubbish generated by prisoners' dwellings on top of business rates. [213544]

Maria Eagle: Disposal of waste is a matter for local management across the prison estate. As prisons are much more than simply 'dwellings' for prisoners, the waste comes from several sources. There is the equivalent of domestic waste but there is additional waste generated by industrial, commercial, horticultural and office activities. The majority of prisons now sort waste for sale, recycling or re-use. When waste cannot be disposed of in this fashion, generally prisons arrange for commercial collection and disposal. There is one known exception, when a prison pays a collection charge to the local authority.

Prospect Project

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which towns the Prospect Project was located; what the cost was of each building used for the project; and which buildings are still in use. [212842]

Mr. Hanson: The Prospect and projects were based in Bristol (two hostels, one male and one female), Exeter (one male), Preston (one male) and Merseyside (one male).

Capital costs for the Prospects buildings programme were £8.539 million: Exeter £1.814 million, Bristol (male) £1.961 million, Bristol (female) £1.489 million, Preston £1.315 million and Merseyside £1.96 million.

The programme has been in the process of being decommissioned since January, and four of the five properties were returned to the National Offender Management Service at the end of May. One property in Bristol is still being used to deliver the community-based aspect of the service for Bristol male and female accommodation.

Safety Belts: Children

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been prosecuted for offences relating to transporting children under the age of 12 years in vehicles without an appropriate car seat since September 2006, broken down by children of age *(a)* seven and under, *(b)* eight, *(c)* nine, *(d)* 10 and (e) 11 years; how many have been fined; and what the average fine was. [213955]

Maria Eagle: Available information held centrally by my Department on the prosecution of seat belt offences is not able to distinguish the age of persons not wearing a seat belt and does not indicate whether or not a booster cushion or child seat was available.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them [213556]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned or funded any television programmes over the last three years.

Voting Methods

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 794-5W, on voting methods, what assessment his Department or its predecessor Departments made of the effect of such weekend voting on turnout in these pilot schemes. [213581]

Mr. Wills: A full assessment of the advance voting pilot in Camden in May 2002 was published by the Electoral Commission in its report 'Modernising Elections—a strategic evaluation of the 2002 electoral pilot schemes'. Manchester city council carried out its own assessment of its pilot scheme of May 2000.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Student Finance

15. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the financial effect on English students studying in Scotland of the proposals for a local income tax in Scotland. [213884]

Bill Rammell: As the Secretary of State for Scotland has made clear that a local income tax would not be local having been fixed centrally, and it will affect 55,000 students.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Science and Technology Facilities Council on its budget. [213877]

Ian Pearson: As part of the Science settlement, STFC's budget will increase by 13.6 per cent. or £185 million to a total of £1.9 billion over the CSR period. I have not had recent discussions with the STFC on its budget. It will decide how much of its funding they spend on each of their programmes. The STFC is currently considering the findings of its own programmatic review before finalising the use of its allocated budget which it will publish on 8 July.

Research and Development

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what measures he has considered to improve the advice and support given by his Department to companies for research and development opportunities. [213880]

Ian Pearson: The DIUS White Paper "Innovation Nation" set out policy commitments including the aim to drive increased demand for innovative products through Government procurement, and to reform the Small Business Research Initiative.

The White Paper also set out policy commitments to give an innovation voucher to at least 1,000 businesses a year by 2010-11 to double the number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, and to provide support for business innovation through the Technology Strategy Board and Energy Technologies Institute.

Apprentices

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure the quality of apprenticeships for young people and adults. [213863]

Mr. Lammy: Raising quality is integral to our ambitious plans set out in "World-Class Apprenticeships". We are establishing the National Apprenticeship Service from April 2009 to ensure the provision of high quality apprenticeships in England. It will have responsibility for building on the current excellent completion rate of 63 per cent. which has risen from 24 per cent. in 2001/02. In the meantime, the Learning and Skills Council is progressing with its work to agree minimum levels of performance for apprenticeships; developing a new blueprint which clearly defines the core elements of an apprenticeship and specific training requirements; and working with the new Learning and Skills Improvement Service to secure continuous improvement in the provision of apprenticeships.

Apprentices: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated for the development and maintenance of apprenticeships in the Chorley constituency in each year since 1997. [213645]

Mr. Lammy: Information on Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding allocated to Lancashire LSC for apprenticeships is provided in the following table. LSC funding data are only available from 2005/06 and by LSC area or individual learning provider.

Lancashire LSC apprenticeships funding allocation

	Apprenticeships funding allocation (£ million)
2005/06	23.5
2006/07	25.2
2007/08	26.4

Source:
Learning and Skills Council.

Apprentices: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [209386]

Mr. Lammy: The number of apprenticeship starts and completions in Suffolk in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

Apprenticeship starts and completions in Suffolk[1] local authority

	Starts	Completions
2002/03	3,230	850
2003/04	3,780	980
2004/05	3,130	860
2005/06	2,640	1,150
2006/07	2,530	1,820

[1] Area is based on the home postcode of the learner.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Includes all ages and both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships.
Source:
The LSC Individualised Learner Record

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210579]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was formed on 28 June 2007 from the DTI (now BERR) and the DfES (now DCSF). The Department accesses a range of corporate and professional skills development activities through these former Departments, in addition to internal provision in DIUS and that procured through external suppliers. Provision includes access to formal classroom training, e-learning, coaching, mentoring, and short seminars on a range of subjects. We also ran over 30 learning and development activities on 22 May as part of Learning at Work Day, in which a quarter of our people participated.

We link our learning and development provision to the Professional Skills for Government framework, the Government Skills Strategy and our business and improvement objectives enabling us to live the policies we prepare for Government.

The Department places great emphasis on developing the skills of our people, and we are preparing a skills strategy for DIUS which will continue to ensure we focus our development effectively to deliver the DIUS skills agenda.

Programmes which can be accessed support the following:

Leadership Development

Policy Development Skills

Strategic Thinking

- Analysis and Use of Evidence
- Programme and Project Management
- Financial Management
- People Management
- Working with Ministers
- Drafting and Writing
- Communications
- Professional Qualifications such as accountancy.

In addition, the DIUS regularly provides short business related seminars on key topic areas such as engagement and collaboration using social media and innovation through policy delivery.

Our policy is to promote the development of our people through a wide range of innovative learning and development opportunities which are not reliant solely on formal classroom training.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many foundation degree courses in English institutions were previously on offer as higher national certificates and higher national diplomas. [214004]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held centrally. Higher national certificates and higher national diplomas have served employers well in the past, but the numbers applying for these courses have been declining in recent years. Foundation degrees are a modern qualification, developed in partnership with employers to address high-level skill needs, and their popularity is evident through the growth to 73,000 current students.

Further Education: Community Relations

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution further education colleges make to the promotion of community cohesion. [213875]

Bill Rammell: Further education colleges contribute in many ways to community cohesion with the delivery of ESOL—English for speakers of other languages—training being the most direct. Many FE institutions also provide a key opportunity for young people and adults to mix with others who have different experiences, cultures and faiths, building understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. As a result, FE colleges have an important role in helping young people and adults develop a sense of shared values.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if his Department will commission independent research to assess the effect on all socio-economic groups of his Department's widening participation initiatives relating to medical studies. [213140]

Bill Rammell: Aimhigher is our primary vehicle for widening participation in higher education. It has a comprehensive evaluation strategy in place which is designed to show the impact of the programme over time.

The Department will not be commissioning specific research to assess the impact of widening participation initiatives relating to medicine. However, the Department monitors and analyses data by subject of study and socio-economic class.

DIUS will be gathering evidence on access to the professions, including medicine, to feed into the independent review of fees.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* steps he has taken with the Department of Health to improve widening participation initiatives to encourage students from all socio-economic groups into medicine. [213141]

Bill Rammell: The two Departments meet regularly to discuss education and health issues, including initiatives to support fairer access to the health professions.

Several medical schools run schemes, such as the extended medical programme, to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds.

Aimhigher is our primary vehicle for widening participation in higher education. The Aimhigher Healthcare Strand has been developed in partnership with the Department of Health and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Aimhigher has a comprehensive evaluation strategy in place which is designed to show the impact of the programme over time.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* mature and *(b)* part-time learners from the London Borough of Bexley entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [213442]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Bexley local authority UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Bexley		
		Of all entrants[2]	
Academic year	All Entrants	Mature[3]	Part-time
1997/98[4]	1,200	505	275
1998/99	1,450	695	495
1999/2000	1,395	700	510
2000/01	1,620	810	590
2001/02	1,745	905	625
2002/03	1,785	910	630
2003/04	1,955	1,040	730
2004/05[5]	2,035	1,085	735

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Bexley local authority UK higher education institutions. Academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Bexley		
		Of all entrants[2]	
Academic year	*All Entrants*	*Mature*[3]	*Part-time*
2005/06	2,100	1,070	740
2006/07	2,125	1,040	705

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study.

[2] Breakdowns for mature and part-time students contain double counting (i.e. part-time students over 21 years of age will be included in both columns).

[3] Mature undergraduate students are aged 21 and over. Figures include a small number of students whose age was unknown.

[4] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.

[5] The increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be greater than in reality as a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the Higher Education Funding Council for England to make a decision on the proposed new multi-campus university for North Northamptonshire. [213869]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was pleased to meet a delegation from Northamptonshire to discuss the opportunities provided by our new "University Challenge" policy. The Funding Council will shortly be launching a consultation document to help those who want to extend higher education in North Northamptonshire and elsewhere to develop their plans for submission to the Funding Council and the other funding bodies that we expect to support such projects.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2084-86W, on midwifery students, whether the number of NHS midwifery training places commissioned for the 2007-08 academic year has now been confirmed. [211997]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The information will be available later in the summer.

Technology: Research

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to fund research on low and zero carbon technologies in the next three years. [213881]

Ian Pearson: Research Council expenditure on energy research and training has more than doubled since 2003 and, over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, will approach £300 million.

The Energy Technologies Institute will invest up to £1 billion over the next 10 years and the Technology Strategy Board is also expanding its portfolio of activities through a range of initiatives including Innovation Platforms.

Vocational Training

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to promote the right of employees to request access to skills training. [213873]

Mr. Lammy: Subject to the outcome of the current consultation and the passage of legislation on 'time to train' through the House, we expect to introduce a new right enabling up to 22 million employees in England to request time to train from their employer in 2010.

We will build on our current skills communications and marketing campaigns to promote time to train, help employers prepare for its introduction and ensure that it helps them drive their businesses forward.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner since its establishment; and at what cost. [213741]

Mr. Lammy: Details of exactly how much timber and how many timber products were procured and precise amounts of expenditure thereon could be isolated from wider expenditure on office fixture, furniture and other items only at disproportionate cost. However, I can confirm that all timber, including that in all the timber-based products procured for DIUS, originated from legal and sustainable sources. There are no FLEGT licence schemes in place as yet.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Advanced Market Commitment Programme

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries will receive aid from his Department under the Advanced Market Commitment programme; and what role his Department will have in determining the pattern of distribution of vaccines delivered under the programme. [213206]

Gillian Merron: The pilot Advance Market Commitment (AMC) will be implemented by the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations) and the World Bank. The Department for International Development (DFID) envisages that all countries that are eligible for support from GAVI will also be eligible for support from the AMC. GAVI's eligibility policy is determined by the GAVI Board, of which the UK is a member.

Presently, countries with gross national income of under $1,000 per capita are eligible for GAVI support and 72 developing countries currently meet this criterion. Eligible developing countries will decide whether they wish to apply to GAVI for support to introduce the new vaccines into their national immunisation programmes.

Africa: Health Professions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what monitoring programmes were put in place to assess the effects of the Emergency Human Resources Programme launched in Malawi in 2004; and what evaluation has been made of the programme. [213271]

Gillian Merron: The Malawi Ministry of Health assesses progress against its health plans twice yearly, and the Department for International Development (DFID) draws on this information when conducting its own annual assessment of impact. In addition, an independent mid-term review of the six-year Malawi health plan reported in September 2007 and identified the need for further strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems of human resources in the Ministry of Health.

An evaluation of the Emergency Human Resources Programme is to be conducted and the design of the study is under way.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had on *(a)* the continuation of the Emergency Human Resources Programme in Malawi and *(b)* the possible extension of the programme to other countries. [213273]

Gillian Merron: The Emergency Human Resources Programme is a government of Malawi programme that the Department for International Development (DFID) will support until at least 2011. DFID uses a variety of opportunities in country, and through visits, to discuss progress of the programme. It is too early for discussions about extending support beyond 2011, but any future extension will be the government of Malawi's decision.

DFID's approach in all the countries it works, subject to availability of funding and capacity of partner governments, is to support country plans. DFID has no plans to extend Malawi's solution to other countries, but is working with each partner government to respond to their own health worker crisis while learning the lessons from elsewhere.

Africa: Primary Education

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the net enrolment ratio in primary education in *(a)* Malawi, *(b)* Liberia and *(c)* Zambia in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [213297]

Gillian Merron: In Malawi it is estimated that around 80 per cent. of primary school-age children are in school. The draft Malawi National Education Sector Plan (NESP) 2008-17 has a target of increasing this to 95 per cent. by 2012-13. This is only achievable with increased investments in teachers, classrooms and teaching and learning materials. With these efforts, the Department for International Development (DFID) estimates the net enrolment ratio (NER) could increase to 86 per cent. in 2009-10; 89 per cent. in 2010-11 and 92 per cent. in 2011-12.

DFID is not in a position to make an assessment for Liberia, because we do not provide bilateral support for education.

In Zambia the Ministry of Education national implementation framework is aligned to the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) 2006-10. Projections and targets for all programme activities are currently within the five-year period of development plans. The estimated NER in primary education in 2009-2010 is 97.3 per cent. The government is in very early stages of planning for the next development plan cycle. Therefore, there are no national estimates provided for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Asian Development Bank

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to encourage the Asian Development Bank to become a more effective development organisation; and whether UK funding is linked to improved performance. [213231]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government recognise the significant contribution the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) makes to tackling poverty. This, however, can be increased further by the AsDB focusing more on ensuring that programmes achieve their anticipated results and improving the performance of its staff. Over the last year, the UK has pursued these objectives in formal discussions of the AsDB's work and strategy, in financing negotiations, and bilaterally with Bank's President and management.

Last September, the UK formally withdrew the offer of additional funding that had been made subject to the AsDB implementing changes to improve its effectiveness. During the latest financing negotiations which finished in May 2008, the UK Government made clear again that the level of the UK contribution would be based on its effectiveness. The AsDB were able to show some improvements and gave a number of commitments to take further action. However, we reduced our share of total donor contributions (from 6 per cent. to 4.8 per cent.) to signal that we were not satisfied with the pace of reform.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to support the creation of the Asian Development Bank Clean Energy Investment Framework. [213232]

Mr. Thomas: Since launching the Clean Energy Investment Framework at Gleneagles in 2005 the UK Government have worked closely with the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) to help design and implement a Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF) for the region.

The AsDB has launched a number of climate initiatives under its CEIF Climate Change Programme. DFID's support has been used to help the AsDB undertake an

Asia Low-Carbon Transport study costing £175,000 which is informing the development of the Bank's urban transportation sector programmes. We have also committed £1.4 million to a regional technical assistance programme for the AsDB to take forward its work on adaptation to climate change. The AsDB is ensuring that climate change issues are fully integrated in its new Country Partnership Strategies. This includes helping countries to build adaptation into their development plans and into AsDB's future investments. DFID, FCO and DEFRA are also supporting the AsDB to carry out a £450,000 Regional Review of the Economics of Climate Change study in South East Asia. This study explores the potential impact of climate change in the region and the costs and benefits of both adaptation and mitigation policies to respond to the challenge.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided for the reduction of poverty in Bangladesh since 1997. [213674]

Mr. Malik: Details of DFID's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance provided to relieve poverty in Bangladesh since 1997 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: Total DFID Bilateral expenditure 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Bangladesh (£000)
1997-98	38 072
1998-99	66 494
1999-2000	63 489
2000-01	70 489
2001-02	59 222
2002-03	73 224
2003-04	55 383
2004-05	127 904
2005-06	123 368
2006-07	109 313

Final details of DFID expenditure in 2007-08 will be available from July 2008.

Table 2: Imputed DFID Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) 1997/98 to 2006-07

	Bangladesh (£000)
1997-98	11 296
1998-99	49 635
1999-2000	19 290
2000-01	19 366
2001-02	16 782
2002-03	17 498
2003-04	26 967
2004-05	19 951
2005-06	37 860
2006-07	42 029

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to assist in the development of democracy in Bangladesh. [213672]

Mr. Malik: During my recent visit to Bangladesh, I reiterated that the UK's interests, like those of the Bangladeshi people, are best served by a stable, prosperous and democratic Bangladesh. I met the Bangladesh Finance Adviser, and the Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff and expressed the UK's support for the roadmap for national elections before the end of 2008. I also repeated the UK's call to relax the provisions of the State of Emergency in Bangladesh, in order to facilitate conditions for the preparation of free and fair elections. I publicly urged all sides, including the political parties, to engage and participate positively in the democratic processes to bring a smooth transition to an elected government, which can sustain credible democracy thereafter. Also, I asserted the UK's belief that a return to the violent and confrontational politics of 2006 could never sustain democracy in Bangladesh.

The UK, through DFID, is providing practical support to democratic processes in Bangladesh. We are currently providing £10 million to the Government of Bangladesh in support of the development of a new photographic voter roll and National ID Card. This will help to eliminate 'ghost voters', and to provide a fair, safe and transparent election.

We are also providing £2.1 million to the national election programme aimed at supporting domestic non-governmental organisations to provide domestic and international monitoring of the election; and £2.8 million for 'BBC Sanglap' in support of a "Question Time" style debate show on television and radio in Bangladesh that encourages political/public dialogue. Both programmes are designed to minimise the scope for electoral fraud and reduce the risk of political parties boycotting the elections.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [214015]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The cyclone that hit Burma on 2 May was one of the worst humanitarian disasters since the Asian Tsunami of 2004. The official Burmese government death toll is 84,537 dead with 53,836 missing, and the UN estimates the total number of people badly affected to be in the region of 2.4 million. The Red Cross estimates on the basis of reports from 22 organisations working in Burma that between 69,000 and 128,000 were killed. DFID estimates that of the affected population, 300,000 remain extremely vulnerable and require immediate humanitarian assistance.

Some progress has been made in improving access to the affected areas by international humanitarian workers. The rate of delivery and volume of relief goods has increased since the UN/Association of South East Asian Nations conference on 25 May, but the UN estimates that approximately 1.1 million of the 2.4 million cyclone victims have yet to receive assistance. Some areas are just now being reached for the first time. However, the ASEAN's joint assessment process (PONJA—Post Nargis Joint Assessment) is under way and appears to be progressing well.

The UN Flash Appeal has requested US$201 million and is 63.6 per cent. funded (received funds not including pledges). A revised Humanitarian Appeal is expected in early July. DFID, having committed £27.5 million, is a leading donor. Our support is helping organisations provide immediate humanitarian assistance to victims of the cyclone, such as shelter materials, food, clean water and household items to replace those that have been lost.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213132]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) follows the centrally mandated baseline standard clearance procedure for all individuals working on DFID premises. This includes a criminal record check of unspent convictions through the organisation Disclosure Scotland. Staff requiring a higher, national security vetting clearance, will have their criminal records checked against spent as well as unspent convictions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213152]

Gillian Merron: Under the centrally mandated baseline standard procedure introduced in 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) undertakes a 100 per cent. criminal record check against unspent convictions for all staff working on DFID premises. Prior to the introduction of the baseline standard criminal record checks were undertaken on all staff under national security vetting procedures.

The number of new recruits (successful applicants) on whom such checks were carried out in recent years is shown in the following table.

June to May each year	*New recruits*
2003-04	113
2004-05	100
2005-06	65
2006-07	97

The historic data requested for 10 years is not readily available, and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. DFID does not maintain a historic record of the number of successful applicants who were found to have a criminal record.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to provide aid to developing countries targeted at poor farmers who are living at subsistence level. [212610]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) believes that poor farmers, if properly supported, have the potential to contribute significantly to reducing hunger and poverty by growing food for their families and the immediate community. This also contributes to overall economic growth. At the recent Rome Food Summit the UK called on all donors, other international organisations, developing country governments, the private sector and civil society to double our efforts to tackle hunger and poverty under a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food (GPAF). DFID works directly on agriculture in more than 20 countries, investing £120 million a year. In Africa and Asia DFID also supports a range of social protection programmes. In Africa alone we spend £55 million a year on rural safety nets which deliver social transfers to 8 million poor farmers.

An increasing amount of DFID's funding is now going through multilateral channels. The European Commission and the World Bank are both significantly increasing the amount that they are committing to agriculture. This year's World Development Report, published by the World Bank, supported by DFID through funding and technical inputs, is devoted to the subject of agriculture and development. It highlights the need to provide support to poor farmers, and to provide alternative income opportunities in rural areas. DFID is also a leading supporter of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, CAADP, an Africa-led initiative looking to find the best ways of addressing the primary millennium development goal target of poverty and hunger.

Developing Countries: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries to cut carbon dioxide emissions since 1997. [213671]

Mr. Thomas: The 2006 White Paper on International Development made climate change a strategic priority for the Department for International Development (DFID), and has led to an increase in capacity and resources on this issue. As part of the 2005 G8 meeting in Gleneagles, the UK helped push for a Clean Energy Investment Framework to stimulate greater investment in lower carbon energy sources by the multilateral development banks. Linked to this we have part-funded five low-carbon growth strategies in Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa.

The UK has been a major contributor to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and our current funding totals £140 million over four years (2007-8 to 2010-11). About a third of GEF's funds support projects tackling climate change, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and new low carbon energy technologies. The UK Government's longer term objective is to enable all developing countries to access global carbon markets, and we have supported programmes to ensure greater participation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by African countries.

Developing Countries: Energy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage developing countries to use sustainable energy sources. [213670]

Mr. Thomas: At the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles the UK championed the Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF), which commits the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to increase their investment in renewable sources of energy. Our longer term objective is for global carbon markets to act as the primary driver of investment in sustainable energy sources in developing countries.

The UK will be one of the major contributors to the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), which will provide additional resources, via the multilateral development banks, to help developing countries pilot new approaches for the demonstration and deployment of low carbon technologies. The CTF is part of the newly created Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), and will be capitalised from the UK's £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund. The Department for International Development (DFID) also provides core funding to the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP).

Developing Countries: EU Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken in collaboration with the EU to ensure development issues are systematically addressed across all sectors; and with what outcomes. [213210]

Mr. Thomas: In 2005 the UK EU presidency launched the European Consensus on Development. This landmark agreement committed EU member states and the Commission to ensure that policies that affect development (such as trade and migration) do not compromise, and where possible, support progress towards achieving development goals. This goal is termed Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).

The first EU biannual report on PCD was issued in October 2007. The report highlighted that progress had been made in the Commission, particularly around establishing mechanisms to promote PCD. Substantial efforts have been made on some policy areas, on trade for example, the EU has been at the forefront of making development a key issue at the World Trade Organisation negotiations and in seeking a successful outcome of the Doha Development Agenda. Implementation of PCD at the member state level was more varied although the UK was seen as a good performer.

The report was an important step forward in raising awareness and understanding of PCD. In future reports, there will be more focus on the wider impact and outcomes of PCD efforts.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to hold a public consultation on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the AIDS strategy. [212650]

Gillian Merron: A 12-week public consultation for the updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" was held between May and August 2007. The strategy emphasises the importance of achieving outcomes as well as measuring inputs. The Department for International Development (DFID) is in the process of finalising a monitoring and evaluation plan and is committed to reporting on the commitments made in "Achieving Universal Access". We will commission an independent review of the implementation of the strategy in three years time.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projections have been made of future donor funding for the World Bank's International Development Association; and what change he expects there to be to the UK contribution in each of the next five years. [213243]

Mr. Thomas: The negotiations for the 15th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA 15) concluded in December 2007. 45 donor countries pledged a record £12.6 billion over three years to further the cause of overcoming poverty in the poorest low income countries. As a result of this donor funding the World Bank's IDA will be able to provide £21 billion over the period 2008-11 to the poorest 80 countries in the world.

The UK has pledged to provide the World Bank £2.134 billion to IDA 15 over the next three years, 2008-11—a 49 per cent. increase over its contribution to IDA 14 (2005-08). The UK Government will be seeking parliamentary approval for this contribution next month. The UK contribution for the period after 2011 will be determined during the IDA 16 negotiations which are scheduled to commence in March 2010.

In addition to this, donors including the UK have agreed to provide compensation to IDA for the costs of providing debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Over the next five years the UK contribution for MDRI to IDA is estimated to be £240 million however this is dependant on progress of countries through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

European Development Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contributions his Department makes to the management of the European Development Fund; how co-operation with other member states is managed; and what steps have been taken to improve co-ordination. [213241]

Mr. Thomas: The UK takes a proactive role at the European Development Fund (EDF) Committee, which makes decisions on the EDF. The contributions made by UK Officials at these Committees are based on advice from DFID country offices and other UK Government Departments. Co-operation is managed effectively with other member states by formally and exchanging views, before and during Committee meetings, and developing common positions when appropriate.

At a country level, a number of steps have been taken by the Commission itself to improve co-ordination. When the Commission developed its recent Country Strategy Papers (CSP) under the 10th EDF, the Commission organised discussions to ensure complementarity with other bilateral programmes. In some cases, this went further. In South Africa and Sierra Leone discussions led to a joint CSP between the EC and other member states with a presence in-country.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he expects his Department's share of funding for the European Development Fund to change in each of the next five years. [213242]

Mr. Thomas: The tenth European Development Fund (EDF) (€22,682,00 million) can be committed from 1 July 2008 and will cover the period 2008-13. The UK's share is 14.82 per cent. (€3,360,00 million). The ninth EDF (€13,800,00 million) ran from 2003-2007. The UK's share amounted to 12.69 per cent. (€1,751,22 million).

The UK's share of the tenth EDF will not change and will remain at 14.82 per cent.. The UK will continue to pay the ninth EDF (12.69 per cent.) until 2010. After this the UK will only make payments at the tenth EDF share (14.82 per cent.).

Foreign Relations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which bilateral development relationships between the UK and another country have ended in the last three years. [212708]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has ended the following bilateral development relationships in the last three years:

Khazakstan (2005)
Namibia (2005)
Uzbekistan (2005)
Swaziland (2006)
Sri Lanka (2006)
Russia (2007)
Ukraine (2008)
East Timor (2008)

DFID's bilateral office and programme in Sri Lanka closed in April 2006. However, DFID's engagement in Sri Lanka continues through staff seconded to the high commission in Colombo and through DFID funding of UK Government Conflict Prevention Pool activities in Sri Lanka.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of co-operation between the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United Nations agencies. [213233]

Gillian Merron: The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) and the UN co-operate in a range of areas. Parts of the UN system such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) are key providers of technical assistance to countries applying for Global Fund support. Some of them, such as UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) are also key implementers of Global Fund supported programmes through their work for example in product procurement and supply chain management. The Fund has signed Memoranda of Understanding with both UNDP and UNAIDS.

The Fund is currently undergoing a major independent evaluation of its functioning and performance. One of the three elements of this evaluation will look at the effectiveness and efficiency of the Partnership Environment in which the Fund operates. The Fund is a financing mechanism; it does not implement programmes itself and has no country presence, so it must rely on the activities and support of its development partners. The Secretariat of the Global Fund expects to present this part of the evaluation to a board retreat in October and to the full board in November 2008.

International Health Partnership

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of harmonisation between multilateral health agencies following the May 2008 meeting on the International Health Partnership; and what evidence was used to inform this assessment. [213208]

Gillian Merron: At global level the World Health Organisation and World Bank are working effectively together in leading the International Health Partnership (IHP). The eight multilateral health agencies (WHO, World Bank, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, GAVI Alliance, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS and the Gates Foundation) also meet regularly to coordinate their work and implement the IHP as the H8. At a country level, Department for International Development (DFID) offices are also reporting progress. For example, in Mozambique a central part of the IHP will be developing and implementing a coordinated strategy to scale-up health workers; and in Nepal, the IHP gave momentum to a new policy on free health care.

DFID is pleased that there will now be an external review of the IHP to assess progress against commitments set out in the global IHP Compact, which was signed in September 2007. DFID will be calling for a discussion of the results of that review at ministerial and head of agency level.

Joint Country Strategy for South Africa

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department plans to commit to the joint country strategy for South Africa; and whether the EU or the South African government will administer this initiative. [213235]

Gillian Merron: The joint European Union Strategy Paper (EU-CSP) was signed in 2007 between the European Union, 10 member states (including the UK), and the South African Government. The Strategy was jointly drafted and agreed with the South African National Treasury.

The EU-CSP supports the priorities of the Government of South Africa (GoSA). Donors have agreed to split responsibilities for different sectors. The UK leads on the employment promotion theme and has established a working group designed to encourage co-operation between donors and Government Departments.

The EU is responsible for administering the strategy, working closely with the South African International Donor Co-ordination (IDC) Department of the National Treasury, which manages international donor relationships.

The UK will provide £20 million annually in bilateral funding to South Africa, between 2008 to 2011. This funding will be spent in line with the EU-CSP Business Plan.

Malaria: Health Education

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has provided funding to *(a)* Malaria no More, *(b)* Tam Tam and *(c)* the UK Campaign Against Malaria; and if he will make a statement. [213298]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development has not provided financial support to *(a)* Malaria no More, *(b)* Tam Tam or *(c)* the UK Campaign Against Malaria. However, we do have strong links with and provide support to some of the organisations that are part of the UK Coalition Against Malaria.

South Asia: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department provided to help reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS in South and South East Asia in each of the last five years. [213246]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of bilateral financial resources provided by DFID to help reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS in South and South East Asia, in each of the last five financial years, are given in the following table. Final figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS in South and South East Asia 2002-03 to 2006-07

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
South Asia	25,411	31,019	53,174	60,944	74,944
South East Asia	4,223	8,451	12,612	26,998	26,796
Total	29,634	39,470	65,786	87,942	101,740

DFID also provides multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, some of which is used to fight HIV and AIDS in South and South East Asia, including: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM); the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and other UN organisations; the European Commission and the World Bank.

South Asia: Primary Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has commissioned on levels of enrolment in primary education in South Asia in the last three years. [212709]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All Department for International Development (DFID) programmes have a main focus on primary enrolment as part of our commitment to and assessment of progress towards the millennium development goals. In each country, as part of the regular monitoring we undertake jointly with governments and other donors, regular analysis of enrolment data as well as research into specific issues related to enrolment takes place. This enables us to understand the constraints to access faced by particular groups, especially girls, and support interventions aimed at enrolling the hard to reach.

In addition to this country level work, our Central Research Department has commissioned a major international study on access to education which includes India among the sample countries.

Trade Policy Unit

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the joint Trade Policy Unit; and what plans he has for further collaboration with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. [213211]

Mr. Thomas: The Joint Trade Policy Unit was established in summer 2007 and employs 70 staff from across the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for International Development (DFID). It is delivering a high profile agenda that uniquely integrates the Government's trade and development objectives. It is driving forward the Government's effort to secure a Doha Trade deal that promotes market access and development. It leads UK policy on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and is working with a range of partners to ensure these deliver real benefits to developing countries. The Unit is finalising an Aid for Trade strategy that will accelerate progress towards the Government's 2005 G8 commitments.

Both Departments also collaborate well to implement the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises including investigation of complaints. Over the next year, collaboration will be strengthened further through work on a long-term trade and development strategy, including a future strategy on free trade agreements and joint work on fair and ethical trade.

UN Country Pilot Scheme

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the expansion of the One UN country pilot scheme to a further 30 states is expected to start. [213247]

Mr. Thomas: The President of the General Assembly has asked for a report on progress in the eight One UN country pilots. We expect the report to be discussed in the coming weeks. Following this, we do not expect that there will be a formal timetable for an expansion of the One UN country pilots. Instead, developing countries that wish to adopt a 'delivering as one' approach are expected to do so as they agree new development assistance frameworks with the UN. In addition other countries, such as Malawi, are already coming forward to adopt principles of good practice from the One UN pilots.

United Nations Children Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's relationship with the United Nations Children's Fund has been used to help reduce child poverty in the UK. [213249]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not directly support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to reduce child poverty in the United Kingdom. DFID contributes central funding of £21 million a year to support UNICEF's Medium Term Strategic Plan (2006-09) which focuses on the poorest countries to address the causes and results of child poverty.

In partnership with Sweden and Canada we are helping UNICEF to improve organisational performance at all levels, assisting them to fulfil their global mandate to promote the rights of the child to survival, development, protection and women's full enjoyment of human rights. By enhancing their effectiveness UNICEF can work to improve the lives of all children worldwide.

United Nations Population Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had on incentivising United Nations Population Fund staff to increase collaboration across the UN system. [213250]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had extensive dialogue with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on strengthening collaboration across the UN system.

This has resulted in UNFPA clearly outlining how they will advance collaboration in their new strategic plan, regionalisation programme and development results frameworks. UNFPA has issued guidance to country offices on UN reform and has provided incentives for staff by introducing indicators on collaborative working into their staff performance frameworks.

DFID is currently developing a Performance Monitoring Framework for future core commitment to UNFPA (2008-09—2010-11). This will contain indicators and targets on increasing UN collaboration.

United Nations: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial commitments his Department has made to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS to help fight HIV and AIDS. [213238]

Mr. Thomas: Between January 2006 and December 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £29,955,500 unearmarked core funding and £12,042,500 earmarked for specific activities to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). We are currently developing a new core funding agreement with UNAIDS for 2008-09 to 2011-12.

United Nations: Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support reform of the UN system for delivery of aid policy. [213245]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a strong supporter of the UN and recognises that it is a key partner in achieving the MDG's. $15 billion of all development aid flows through the UN. The UK spent £615 million through the UN in 2005. The high level panel report recommended key reforms to the way the UN works at country and the central level.

In 2007 DFID provided catalytic funding to assist the transition of the Delivering as One initiative in eight pilot countries as well as active support of the UN country teams as they develop their new plans for a more streamlined UN programme through effective co-ordination between the UN, national governments and donor partners, that support national governments' own development priorities.

DFID is playing a significant role in supporting the transition to a more strategic and coherent programme, better placed to support national capacity.

The success of some of the pilots has led to another 30 governments and UN country teams expressing interest to become part of the next phase of the One UN to improve the coherence and effectiveness of their programmes.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development where the United Nations Development Programme's SURGE Capacity Initiative has been used in crises since its introduction in 2006. [213248]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Immediate Crisis Response, or SURGE, has been deployed in the following crisis situations:

Burma following Cyclone Nargis, May 2008;

Cameroon in response to a sudden influx of Chadian refugees, February 2008;

Chad after post-elections violence had destroyed UNDP's office in the country, February 2008;

Bangladesh following Cyclone Sidr, 2007;

Liberia after a string of natural disasters, 2007;

Solomon Islands following a tsunami, 2007;

Sudan in support of contingency planning for a potential expansion of support to Darfur, 2007.

World Bank

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the compatibility of President Zoellick's six priority areas for the future direction of the World Bank's strategy with UK development policy. [213244]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank shares DFID's overarching ambition of eradicating poverty and achieving the millennium development goals. It has an important role in taking forward the policy priorities set out in the 2006 White Paper on International Development and the 2008 DFID annual report. President Zoellick's vision is for the World Bank Group to contribute to "inclusive and sustainable globalisation"—to overcome poverty, enhance growth with care for the environment, and create individual opportunity and hope. He has set out six strategic themes for the World Bank:

helping low income countries with an emphasis on economic growth, infrastructure, agriculture and governance;

helping fragile states to rebuild after conflict;

helping middle income countries by being more flexible and better responding to their needs;

fostering regional and global public goods particularly trade and climate change—including a portfolio of measures on low carbon growth;

fostering opportunities in the Arab world to help stimulate economic growth; and

fostering knowledge and learning.

These six priority areas accord well with the four priority areas set out in the DFID 2008 annual report—tackling climate change, reform of international institutions, promoting growth, and peace and security.

World Health Organisation: Millennium Development Goals

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has given to the World Health Organisation to assist the achievement of the millennium development goals on health. [213240]

Gillian Merron: During the period 2002-03 to 2005-06, the latest period for which comprehensive figures are available, DFID provided $387 million through the World Health Organisation (WHO). This comprised $197 million for global partnerships such as Roll Back Malaria and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and $73 million in unearmarked central funding for the WHO's development work. The balance in DFID funding over this period supported WHO's work at a country level and in humanitarian situations.

Zimbabwe: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of reliability of the evidence for the positive trends in the fight against HIV in unstable countries reported by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, with particular reference to Zimbabwe. [213239]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The evidence for the positive trends in the fight against HIV is based on the 2007 UNAIDS Epidemiology Update. These epidemiological estimates are based on methods and parameters that are reviewed and endorsed by an expert Reference Group based on work by country analysts.

UNAIDS indicates that the downward trend observed in Zimbabwe's HIV prevalence rate is supported by several studies. The UNAIDS assessment of the HIV prevalence rate in Zimbabwe is likely to be the best assessment possible under current conditions.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [214017]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to be a grave cause for concern. This year's harvest has been the worst in post-colonial history. The World Food Programme estimates that 5.1 million people may need food aid in the coming year. The severe HIV/AIDS crisis, increasing poverty and destitution, the chaos caused by hyperinflation, and the breakdown of water and sanitation services, are all adding to the risk factors for a major humanitarian emergency.

On 4 June the Government of Zimbabwe suspended the field activities of all NGO's and Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs), with severe implications for the delivery of humanitarian relief. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that around 1.5 million people are being immediately affected. UNICEF say this number includes half a million children.

The World Food Programme's main feeding programme is due to scale up from August. The absence of large scale food aid programmes in the second half of the year could lead to high levels of malnutrition and increased mortality.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 102-3W, on models of care for alcohol misusers, what steps his Department is taking to monitor the efficacy of primary care trusts implementation of guidelines on Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers; and if he will make a statement. [214220]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department monitors the outcomes of effective prevention and treatment through the Public Service Agreement Indicator on alcohol-related hospital admissions for each primary care trust (PCT). The responsibility for developing effective pathways for prevention, treatment and care lies with PCTs. Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers provides advice for PCTs.

Allergies: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Sixth Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, Session 2006-07, HL 166, what progress has been made in setting up a pilot regional allergy centre. [212809]

Ann Keen: In the Government's response to the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology report on Allergy we announced our intention to consider whether a pilot allergy centre was the best way forward. We have since written to all strategic health authorities inviting declarations of interest in leading this process.

We are also continuing to consult stakeholders, including commissioners and patient representative bodies, about what will best meet the needs of patients.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the invitation to strategic health authorities to tender to lead the regional allergy centre pilot. [212810]

Ann Keen: Copies of the invitation have been placed in the Library.

Asthma: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Department of Children, Schools and Families on the care of children with *(a)* asthma and *(b)* diabetes. [212076]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health meet regularly to discuss matters of interest to the two Departments. They have not met specifically to discuss diabetes or asthma, although meetings have covered the child health strategy, due later this year, which will cover a range of issues including care of children with long-term health conditions.

Carers: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the application of the Working Time Directive to carers on sleeping duty; what estimate he has made of the number of care packages affected by the application of the Directive; and if he will make a statement. [213326]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not issued guidance about how the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) impacts on carers. Most carers are volunteers and are not covered by the EWTD.

Carers employed on sleeping duty are covered by the employment legislation including the EWTD. The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) provide relevant guidance that can be accessed via their website at:

www.berr.gov.uk/employment/employment-legislation/employment-uidance/page28978.html

The Government have provided significant investment in local services, including social care. Allocations to local authorities (LAs) have increased by 39 per cent. in real terms since 1997. The detail of contracting arrangements between LAs and independent sector providers of care is a matter for local decision. We expect LAs to take into account a range of provider costs such as implementing the EWTD.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and related legislation in England in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust. [212673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

However, such information as is available is contained in the following table:

Numbers of formal admissions to national health service facilities and independent hospitals registered to detain patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation in England in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by region

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Q30	North East strategic health authority (SHA)	1,184	1,197	1,144	1,126
Q31	North West SHA	3,509	3,359	3,414	3,498
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,965	2,049	2,130	2,160
Q33	East Midlands SHA	1,766	2,075	2,122	2,017
Q34	West Midlands SHA	2,773	2,905	2,944	2,834
Q35	East Of England SHA	2,372	2,340	2,411	2,885
Q36	London SHA	6,245	6,300	6,577	6,218
Q37	South East Coast SHA	2,144	2,141	2,103	2,115
Q38	South Central SHA	1,858	2,004	2,117	1,913
Q39	South West SHA	2,419	2,262	2,184	2,357
	Other unclassified providers		183	207	592
	Total	26,235	26,815	27,353	27,715

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics: KP90

Contraceptives: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many morning-after pills were distributed by each primary care trust in *(a)* the Dacorum Borough Council area and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each in each of the last five years. [210140]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is held at national health service trust level. Due to primary care trust (PCT) reorganisations over the requested period and the PCTs in control of dispensing contraceptives changing, figures are only available for 2006-07 for East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT, which serve Hertfordshire including the Dacorum area.

The following table shows numbers of post-coital hormonal contraceptives dispensed at community contraceptive services and prescribed in the community in the East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT areas.

NHS contraceptive services: numbers of post-coital hormonal contraceptives dispensed at community contraceptive services and prescribed in the community in the East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT areas since 2006-07

	Number
Total specified services	6,590
Community contraceptive services[1]	708
Prescribed in the community[2]	5,882

[1] Figures are for the number of post-coital hormonal contraceptives issued at community contraceptive clinics. Figures supplied are for East and North Hertfordshire PCT.

[2] PACT data: these figures are for East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT. This information was obtained from the PACT system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacies and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside the PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some British National Formulary (BNF) sections have a high proportion of prescriptions, written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community. For example, BNF chapter 4 'Central Nervous System' has a fair proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community these prescriptions are not included in the PACT data.

Note:

Figures are for the financial year April 2006 to March 2007.

Source:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care KT31 return; and

2: Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT)

Dental Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental accident and emergency units there are in England. [212212]

Ann Keen: There are 203 major multi-specialty consultant-led accident and emergency (A and E) units in England. Major multi-specialty A and E units accept all accident and emergency patients including dental emergencies unless otherwise specified. There are also 82 consultant led single speciality A and E units, of which five have been specifically self reported by the NHS as dental units.

Minor dental emergencies such as acute toothache are usually treated through primary dental care out of hours services. Out of hours primary care is provided through high street dentists and in some areas local dental access centres. Major emergencies requiring maxo facial surgery would be referred either direct or via A and E to these specialist secondary care services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people saw an NHS dentist at least once in the year from *(a)* 1 March 2006 and *(b)* 1 March 2007. [212668]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people seen by an NHS dentist in a 12 month period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available and is published each quarter on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist, in England in a 24 month period. The latest information is available in Table CI of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2007' report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007.

This report was published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 5 June 2008. Copies are available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental practices have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213676]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of national health service dental practices that have opened or closed is not collected centrally.

The number of NHS dental practices in England, as at 31 March of each year from 1997 to 2006, is available at Table 7 in the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". This information is based on the old dental contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Dental Services Division (DSD) can provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices by constituency only at disproportionate cost.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available on the information centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, NHSBSA DSD can provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices only at disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people accessed NHS dental treatment in *(a)* north-east Lincolnshire and *(b)* north Lincolnshire in each month for the last two years. [212840]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. The NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division can only provide validated monthly information on the number of people seen by an national health service dentist at disproportionate cost.

The number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24 months period, is provided at Table CI of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2007' report. Information is provided by strategic health authority and primary care trust. This report, published on 5 June 2008, is available in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social carer's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210578]

Mr. Bradshaw: The corporate training courses available to and taken by staff in the Department between September 2007 and May 2008 are shown in the following table:

Course title	*Number of courses held*	*Number of attendees*
Business planning action learning sets	1	10
Coaching for performance	1	6
Competencies, self assessment and development planning	1	5
Conducting a performance review	2	14
Corporate induction	9	158
Dealing with excellent and poor performance	1	8
Dispute resolution—mediation training	1	5
Equality impact assessment	12	111
Introductory certificate in project management	1	9
Introduction to performance management	5	62
Leadership—accountability, project and plans workshop	3	23
Leadership—effective leadership/managing people workshop	3	27
Leadership—financial leadership workshop	2	19
Leadership—organisation and change workshop	1	8
Leadership—personal impact workshop	4	41
Leadership—resource budget workshop	1	8
Leadership—strategic leadership workshop	4	38
Leadership workshop	5	41
Managing and working in diverse teams	5	38
Managing change	4	24
Mentoring	8	61
Monitoring performance, collecting and giving feedback	1	8
Finance—resource budget management	7	78
Finance—strategic management	1	29
Setting objectives	1	9
The manager as a developer	3	21
Thinking through slides	5	44
Working with local Government	5	50
Working with Ministers	10	119

The requested information has only been collated in the form presented since September 2007, and therefore cannot be provided for the whole of the last year.

In addition to corporate training, decisions will have been taken at a local level to send staff on external training courses where a need was identified for training not provided within the Department. There is no centrally held record of this type of action, and it would involve disproportionate cost to gather the information.

Dietary Supplements

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress was made at the Working Group of the Council of Ministers held in June 2008 to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; [213446]

(2) when he next plans to discuss with his European counterparts the objectives of the Government for the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; and if he will make a statement; [213447]

(3) whether the regulatory impact assessment to be conducted on the future proposed maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements will include an assessment of impact upon *(a)* consumer choice, *(b)* specialist small and medium sized manufacturers, *(c)* specialist health food retailers and *(d)* public health. [213448]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Commission has confirmed that the next European Commission-led working group meeting with member states on setting maximum and minimum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements will be held on 27 June.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that its officials are planning a further round of bilateral meetings with their counterparts in other member states to build on discussions held at the working group meeting.

The potential impact on all stakeholders of the European Commission's proposals for setting maximum and minimum levels will be assessed in the associated impact assessment, according to Government guidance issued by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account the agreement reached on the amendment of the Working Time Directive took of the European Court of Justice judgments in the SiMAP and Jaeger cases; what provision the agreement makes for the treatment of on-call time; what amendments to the Directive are foreseen as a result; and if he will make a statement. [213336]

Ann Keen: The European Council agreed that the inactive part of on-call time should not count as work and for compensatory rest (for missed rest) to be taken within a reasonable period. The text now moves to the European Parliament for their consideration as part of the codecision process.

The Government, like the majority of member states supported this text and we have always considered that the SiMAP and Jaeger judgments took the principle of what should be included as working time too far.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions where the primary or secondary diagnosis was drug-related there were in Suffolk in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [209392]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows total admissions to hospital in which the primary or secondary diagnosis of the patient was drug related in Suffolk, broken down by age, for 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Admissions are classified using the International Classifications of Diseases (ICD) 10 codes. A "drug" can be defined as any substance that alters normal bodily function. Therefore codes relating to noxious substances and solvents have been included in this data. It is not possible to identify in ICD-10 all diseases caused by drugs (legal or illegal) and there is no way to guarantee that the admission was drug related. For example, a patient admitted for inguinal hernia surgery may also be dependent on a drug.

	Year (of end of first period of care in patient's hospital stay)				
Age	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Under 15	144	178	221	164	137
15 to 64	1,406	1,732	1,514	1,564	1,559
65+	399	489	529	579	606
Unknown				1	—

Notes

1. Suffolk primary care trust (PCT): In 2006, Suffolk PCT was formed from four former PCTs: Suffolk Coastal PCT, Ipswich PCT, Central Suffolk PCT, Suffolk West PCT.
2. Finished admission episodes (FAEs): A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
3. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
5. All Diagnoses count of episodes—primary and secondary—"drug related": These figures represent a count of all FAEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
6. ICD 10 Codes included in this data:

Codes F11 through to F19 relate to mental and behavioural disorders due to issues such as the use of opioids, cannabinoids, sedatives or hypnotics, cocaine or other stimulants, including caffeine, hallucinogens, volatile solvents, multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances.

Code F55 relates to the abuse of non-dependence-producing substances.

Codes K71.0 through to K71.9 relate to toxic liver disease with cholestasis, with hepatic necrosis, with acute hepatitis, with chronic persistent hepatitis, with chronic lobular hepatitis, with chronic active hepatitis, with hepatitis not elsewhere classified, with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver, with other disorders of liver, and with unspecified conditions.

Codes T36 through to T65 relate to poisoning, such as poisoning by systemic antibiotics, other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics, hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists not elsewhere classified, by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics, narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], anaesthetics and therapeutic gases, antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs, psychotropic drugs not elsewhere classified, psychotropic drugs not elsewhere classified, psychotropic drugs not elsewhere classified, drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system, primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified, agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system, agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system, agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system, topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs, diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances, toxic effect of organic solvents, toxic effect of halogen derivatives of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, toxic effect of corrosive substances, toxic effect of soaps and detergents, toxic effect of metals, toxic effect of other inorganic substances, toxic effect of carbon monoxide, toxic effect of other gases, fumes and vapours, toxic effect of pesticides, toxic effect of noxious substances eaten as seafood, toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food, toxic effect of contact with venomous animals, toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants, toxic effect of other and unspecified substances.

Codes X40 through to X49 relate to accidental poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics, to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified, narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens] not elsewhere classified, other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system, other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances, organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours, other gases and vapours, exposure to pesticides, other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances.

Codes X60 through to X69 relate to intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics, antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified, narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], not elsewhere classified, other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system, other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances, organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours, exposure to pesticides, other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances.

Codes Y40 through to Y59 relate to systemic antibiotics, other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics, hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists not elsewhere classified, primarily systemic agents, agents primarily affecting blood constituents, analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs, antiepileptic and antiparkinsonism drugs, sedatives, hypnotics and antianxiety drugs, anaesthetics and therapeutic gases, psychotropic drugs not elsewhere classified, central nervous system stimulants, not elsewhere classified, drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system, agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system, agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system, agents primarily affecting water-balance and mineral and uric acid metabolism, agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system, topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs, other and unspecified drugs and medicaments, Bacterial vaccines and Other and specified vaccines and biological substances.

Codes T80 through to T80.9 relate to air embolism following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, vascular complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, infections following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, other complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, unspecified complication following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection.

Codes T88.0 through to T88.7 relate to injection following immunization, other complications following immunization, not elsewhere classified, shock due to anaesthesia, malignant hyperthermia due to anaesthesia, other complications of anaesthesia, anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered, unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament.
Code Z71.5 relates to drug abuse counselling and surveillance.
Code T96.X through to Code T97.X relate to sequelae of poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances and sequelae of toxic effects of substances chiefly nonmedicinal as to source.
Code Z50.3 relates to drug rehabilitation.
7. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ensure that strategic health authorities are required to consult members of the public before artificial fluoride is added to public drinking water; [213635]

(2) what plans he has for consulting the public prior to introducing fluoride into public water supply. [213636]

Ann Keen: Section 3(1) of "The Water Fluoridation (Consultation) (England) Regulations 2005", states that, in order to consult and ascertain opinion on proposals for fluoridation schemes, strategic health authorities (SHAs) should publish details of the proposals in one or more newspapers circulating within the area to which the proposals relate, and in such other media accessible within that area as the SHAs consider appropriate. For the purpose of bringing the proposals to the attention of people who would be affected and bodies with an interest. It is therefore for the SHAs to decide whether to undertake consultations.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he makes funds available to national groups who disseminate information *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* against water fluoridation. [213637]

Ann Keen: In 2008-09, the only grant the Department has made is one of £129,000 to the National Fluoride Information Centre, which provides evidence based scientific information on research studies carried out into the effect of adding fluoride to water and other mediums such as milk and table salt.

Foetuses: Surgery

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals perform in-utero surgery; and if he will make a statement. [212443]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for surgical operations performed on a foetus by hospital trust in England in 2006-07.

	FCEs
United Bristol Healthcare National Health Service Trust	33
Harrogate and District National Health Service Foundation Trust	*
Ipswich Hospital National Health Service Trust	*
Southampton University Hospitals National Health Service Trust	27
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust	19
King's College Hospital National Health Service Foundation Trust	*
Birmingham Women's Health Care National Health Service Trust	37
Hammersmith Hospitals National Health Service Trust	12
Leeds Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Trust	8
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals National Health Service Trust	29
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital	*
Nottingham University Hospitals National Health Service Trust	18
County Durham and Darlington National Health Service Foundation Trust	*
Total	191

Notes:
1. Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
2. FCE
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. All operations count of episodes
These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operation fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.
4. Low numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number have been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.
5. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

General Practitioners

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs were practising in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213629]

Ann Keen: We do not have the numbers of general practitioners practising in each constituency, but we are able to provide numbers by primary care trust. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Health Foods

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he last visited a health food shop in his ministerial capacity; and if he will make a statement. [210220]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not visited a health food store in his ministerial capacity.

Health Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the Secretary of State has asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to review changes in the delivery of NHS services following the recommendation of an overview and scrutiny committee in each of the last five years. [212808]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State has asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to review 16 referrals from local Overview and Scrutiny Committees since 2003. Details are given in the following table.

	Number of reviews	*Referral*
2003	1	East Kent[1]
2004	0	
2005	0	
2006	3	Calderdale and Huddersfield North Tees and Hartlepool Gloucestershire
2007	8	Manchester Oxfordshire Wandsworth[2] West Sussex[2] Suffolk Kent Birmingham
2008	4	Scarborough Bridlington East Sussex Barnet, Enfield and Haringey

[1] East Kent referral to the Secretary of State for Health was made by the local Community Health Council in 2003.

[2] For Wandsworth and West Sussex, the IRP undertook initial reviews only and advised the Secretary of State that full reviews were not appropriate.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in England who have been unlawfully infected with HIV; and if he will make a statement; [213680]

(2) what criteria his Department uses to determine which infections entitle those infected to NHS treatment regardless of immigration status; and if he will make a statement; [213681]

(3) for which medical conditions and in what circumstances individuals are entitled to NHS treatment regardless of their immigration status; and if he will make a statement. [213683]

Dawn Primarolo: Latest data show that in 2006 there were 48,480 diagnosed HIV infected individuals who accessed HIV related care at national health service sites in England. National HIV surveillance data, collated at the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections, does not collect information on the immigration status of people accessing treatment for HIV. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the information requested.

Anyone who is considered to be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is fully entitled to all NHS treatment free of charge. This includes HIV treatment. Those who are not ordinarily resident here are deemed overseas visitors and are subject to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. They will have to pay for any hospital treatment they receive unless an exemption from charge category applies.

Some services are themselves exempt from charge, meaning that no one can be charged for them, regardless of their residence or immigration status. These services are:

> treatment given in an accident and emergency (A&E) department or in a walk-in centre in respect of services similar to those provided in an A&E department;
>
> treatment given elsewhere than at a hospital, or given by someone not employed by, or under direction of, a trust;
>
> family planning services;
>
> treatment for certain communicable diseases in order to protect the public health;
>
> treatment given in, or as a referral from, a sexually transmitted diseases clinic (except for services in relation to HIV/AIDS, where only the initial diagnostic test and associated counselling is free to all);
>
> treatment given to people under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983; and
>
> treatment given for mental health problems as part of a court probation order.

Furthermore, for primary care, treatment that, in the clinical opinion of a general practitioner (GP) or health care professional, is emergency or immediately necessary will be given free of charge irrespective of whether the person is registered with a GP practice, or would be entitled to free hospital treatment.

The NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, list those diseases for the treatment of which no charge is to be made. This list is based on a number of public health regulations and comprises:

> notifiable diseases (Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, Section 10 and Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1985);
>
> diseases to which public health enactments applied (Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968);
>
> food poisoning and food-borne infections (Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968); and
>
> other diseases listed (currently severe acute respiratory syndrome).

Health Services: Planning

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department approved the final version of *(a)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority's vision document published on 12 May 2008, *(b)* the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority's vision document published on 14 May 2008 and *(c)* the South West Strategic Health Authority's vision document published on 15 May 2008. [212593]

Ann Keen: The core of the National Health Service Next Stage Review has been a process led by working groups in every NHS region covering two thousand clinicians in total. The vision documents set out the priorities for improving health and health care in each NHS region over the next decade and the challenges that Lord Darzi's final report will respond to shortly. These issues have been discussed with Lord Darzi during the review.

Medical Examinations: Learning Disability

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department's officials have had with counterparts in Wales on the effectiveness of annual health checks for people with a learning disability. [210639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental officials have been in discussions with officials of the Welsh Assembly about their experience of health checks. They have taken into account experience in Wales in developing good practice to deliver the commitment to introduce regular and comprehensive health checks for people with learning disabilities in England.

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per full-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England in each of the last five years. [213105]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: The number of live births in England per midwife in England by strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 30 September each specified year

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	31.2	32.0	32.2	32.4	33.7
North East SHA	26.4	27.3	27.3	27.9	29.1
North West SHA	24.3	25.5	25.0	26.4	26.8
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	29.1	29.7	29.7	29.6	33.0
East Midlands SHA	34.5	35.3	36.7	37.5	39.2
West Midlands SHA	29.2	29.4	30.2	31.1	32.4
East of England SHA	36.9	38.1	39.1	37.5	38.4
London SHA	37.5	36.5	37.4	34.9	35.1
South East	35.0	36.8	35.5	35.6	37.1
South Central SHA	34.9	37.2	37.7	39.6	43.1
South West SHA	27.6	28.6	28.7	29.2	30.8

Notes:
1. Birth Registrations 2002-06 as at 31 December each specified year. Figures are based on the full time equivalent numbers of qualified midwifery staff each year.
2. SHA totals 2002-05 have been calculated using previous health authority (HA)/SHA configurations. HAs were reconfigured to become the 28 SHAs in 2002 and were subsequently reconfigured in to 10 SHAs in 2006.
3. Due to overlaps in the HA/SHA reconfigurations, parts of West Pennine HA and North Derbyshire HA were split over Trent SHA and Greater Manchester SHA. These figures were included in the Trent SHA total to give the figure for the new East Midlands SHA.

Source:
The Information for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. Office for National Statistics Birth Registrations 2002-06.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS midwives in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England took maternity leave in each of the last five years. [213106]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

National Clinical Audit Advisory Group

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of his Department's National Clinical Audit Advisory Group. [212302]

Ann Keen: The current members of the National Clinical Audit Advisory Group are:

Professor Nick Black (Chair);
Mr. Andrew Middleton;
Mrs. Boo Armstrong;
Mr. Daniel Keenan;
Dr. Geraldine Walters;
Dr. Jan Van der Meulen;
Mr. Mark Gritten;
Mr. Martin Ferris;
Mr. Michael Peake;
Mr. Norman Butler; and
Professor Pauline Ong.

National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme's *(a)* current and *(b)* future work programme is; and if he will make a statement. [212301]

Ann Keen: The National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme's (NCAPOP) 2008-09 work programme, as at 21 April 2008, is as follows (this includes audits that are in development/pilot stage and those that are running):

Cancer

Bowel cancer;
Head and neck cancer;
National lung cancer audit;
Oesophago-gastric (stomach) cancer; and
Mastectomy and breast reconstruction.

Children

National Neonatal Audit Programme; and

Paediatric intensive care audit network.

Heart

Adult cardiac surgery;

Congenital heart disease;

Coronary interventions;

Myocardial infarction;

Cardiac ambulance services;

Heart rhythm management; and

Heart failure.

Long-term conditions

Diabetes;

Renal services; and

National Joint Registry.

Older people

Stroke: hospital services;

Carotid endarterectomy; and

Services for people who have fallen.

The full 2008-09 programme is shown in the following table.

A number of these audits will run into 2009-10 and beyond. Decisions on new audits will be taken in due course on advice from the National Clinical Audit Advisory Group and informed by the results of scoping studies.

NCAPOP 2008-09

As at 21 April 2008	*Scoping a possible audit*	*Tendering in progress*	*In development or piloting*	*Recruiting/running*
Cancer				
Bowel cancer (NBOCAP)	—	—	—	ACP/NCASP
Head and neck cancer (DAHNO)	—	—	—	BAHNO/NCASP
National lung cancer audit (NLCA)	—	—	—	RCP/NCASP
Oesophago-gastric (stomach) cancer	—	—	AUGIS/NCASP	—
Mastectomy and breast reconstruction	—	—	RCS/NCASP	—
Children				
National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP)	—	—	—	RCPCH
Paediatric intensive care audit network (PICANet)	—	—	—	University of Leeds
Emergency care for the critically ill or injured child	RCPCH	—	—	—
Heart				
Adult cardiac surgery	—	—	—	SCTS/NCASP
Congenital heart disease (including paediatric surgery)	—	—	—	SCTS/NCASP
Coronary interventions (eg angioplasty, opening up heart artery)	—	—	—	BCIS/NCASP
Myocardial infarction (MINAP) (heart attack)	—	—	—	UCLH/NCASP
Cardiac ambulance services (link to MINAP)	—	—	—	ASA/NCASP
Heart rhythm management (pacing/implantable defibrillators)	—	—	—	HRUK/NCASP
Heart failure	—	—	—	BSH/NCASP
Long-term conditions				
Diabetes	—	—	—	NCD/NCASP
Renal services (vascular access; patient transport)	—	—	RA/NCASP	—
National Joint Registry (NJR)	—	—	—	BOA/Northgate
Asthma	RCP	—	—	—
Mental health				
Dementia	—	—	RCPsychiat	—
Eating disorders	RCPsychiat	—	—	—
Psychological therapies	—	—	RCPsychiat	—
Older people				
Stroke: hospital services	—	—	—	RCP
Carotid endarterectomy (UKCEA) (preventing stroke)	—	—	—	RCP/VSGBI
Services for people who have fallen	—	—	—	RCP
Stroke: patients' pathway, focusing on primary care	Univ. Birm.	—	—	—

NCAPOP 2008-09

As at: 21 April 2008	*Scoping a possible audit*	*Tendering in progress*	*In development or piloting*	*Recruiting/running*
Dignity/'Essence of care' in hospital and other settings	RCNI			

Notes:
ACP Association of Coloproctologists of Great Britain and Ireland, ASA Ambulance Services Association, AUGIS Association of Upper GI Surgeons, BAHNO British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists, BCIS British Cardiac Intervention Society, BOA British Orthopaedic Association, BSH British Society for Heart Failure, HRUK Heart Rhythm UK, NCD National Clinical Director, NCASP National Clinical Audit Support Programme (part of Health and Social Care Information Centre, HSCIC), RA Renal Association, RCNI Royal College of Nursing Institute, RCP Royal College of Psychiatrists, RCPCH Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, RCPsychiat Royal College of Psychiatrists, SCTS Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery, UCLH University College Hospital London, Univ. Birm. University of Birmingham Department of Primary Care and General Practice, VSGBI Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement in the impact assessment on the statutory scheme to control prices of branded NHS medicines that any change in UK pricing will have a negligible effect on the viability of these global businesses. [213559]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's 'Consultation on a Statutory Scheme to Control the Price of Branded NHS Medicines' and the accompanying impact assessment, issued on 18 June 2008, set out how the proposed measures that are subject to consultation are estimated to result in a lost profits to the pharmaceutical industry of £280 million a year. The United Kingdom comprises only 3.5 per cent. of the global market and in patent medicine prices will continue to be significantly greater than manufacturing and distribution costs. Therefore the Department has concluded that, although there will be an impact on profits for the global pharmaceutical industry as a result of the proposed measures, these will not be significant enough to affect the viability of global pharmaceutical companies.

The part of the consultation dealing with the price cut and measures to limit the price of out of patent brands ends on 25 September 2008. The consultation document invites comments on the impact assessment, in particular the analysis of costs and benefits. Copies of 'Consultation on a Statutory Scheme to Control the Price of Branded NHS Medicines' have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_085523

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects to announce funding allocations for the NHS for 2009-10. [212590]

Mr. Bradshaw: A specified date has yet to be confirmed for revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 but the intention is that this will be announced before the summer recess.

NHS: Managers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities have a medical director in post. [212225]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The non-medical census which collects data on numbers includes directors within the 'senior managers' category but this is not sub-divided in more detail.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines exist on the appointment of medical directors to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities. [212226]

Ann Keen: There is currently no departmental guidance on the appointment of medical directors to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

NHS: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physicians' assistants are in post in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* hospital trust. [212223]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

The role of physicians' assistant is a new role and is not identified as a separate staff group in the national health service workforce census.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physicians' assistants in England *(a)* were in training and *(b)* completed their training in each of the last three years. [212224]

Ann Keen: This information was not collected prior to the 2007-08 financial year. The final figures for 2007-08 will be available later in the summer.

NHS: Mentally Ill

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines exist within the NHS for the management of NHS staff with mental health problems. [212232]

Ann Keen: The "healthy workplaces handbook" is produced by NHS Employers, who represent trusts in England on workforce issues. The handbook includes a section on mental health and employment, which provides national health service managers and occupational health professionals with the tools they need to assess the suitability of persons having mental health problems who wish to work or train, or who are already working in the service.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of mental health problems experienced by NHS staff. [212238]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Personal Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 910-11W, on the NHS: personal records, if he will break down the number of nutrition-related adverse incidents reported to the National Reporting and Learning System by area of incident. [212227]

Ann Keen: The following table shows a list of nutrition-related adverse incidents reported to the National Reporting and Learning System by each strategic health authority (SHA) area.

Date of incident by SHA (January 2005-December 2007)

		SHA										
Date of incident	*Missing data*[1]	*East Midlands SHA*	*East of England SHA*	*London SHA*	*North East SHA*	*North West SHA*	*South Central SHA*	*South East Coast SHA*	*South West SHA*	*West Midlands SHA*	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*	*Total*
January 2005	91	64	57	148	22	156	34	51	54	22	74	773
February 2005	111	47	76	148	19	172	41	37	65	26	106	848
March 2005	138	90	69	134	29	221	28	64	58	21	103	955
April 2005	207	79	50	156	38	189	56	53	73	64	136	1,101
May 2005	226	111	98	227	33	253	50	64	69	49	162	1,342
June 2005	222	128	88	216	40	218	43	70	98	60	174	1,357
July 2005	272	136	123	203	37	259	36	68	123	81	142	1,480
August 2005	255	128	125	187	36	220	47	69	97	70	148	1,382
September 2005	263	135	138	245	32	223	61	75	95	77	157	1,501
October 2005	290	110	158	242	35	242	82	72	124	65	141	1,561
November 2005	316	118	135	248	38	227	84	80	155	93	159	1,653
December 2005	243	112	174	234	30	211	102	72	117	80	145	1,520
January 2006	290	146	195	259	41	247	81	86	149	98	139	1,731
February 2006	282	146	166	251	38	252	98	86	129	77	139	1,664
March 2006	347	140	208	242	45	259	100	99	161	89	178	1,868
April 2006	304	125	156	255	52	246	106	97	174	106	182	1,803
May 2006	373	151	190	268	64	308	101	89	166	102	195	2,007
June 2006	360	157	228	287	59	256	119	119	186	111	202	2,084
July 2006	354	185	211	305	39	277	118	108	184	110	212	2,103
August 2006	342	241	177	284	63	260	94	121	162	91	237	2,072
September 2006	310	197	215	282	72	258	110	86	181	115	227	2,053
October 2006	258	221	256	298	76	305	132	110	200	106	209	2,171
November 2006	207	201	238	326	77	299	130	97	205	128	207	2,115
December 2006	139	194	212	268	74	274	115	93	181	109	207	1,866
January 2007	142	226	264	361	95	306	150	104	249	145	222	2,264
February 2007	141	218	219	321	94	302	121	120	206	137	208	2,087
March 2007	141	201	281	402	94	280	159	127	223	161	201	2,270
April 2007	196	212	272	373	101	277	126	144	253	173	235	2,362
May 2007	195	250	318	379	120	316	181	178	216	142	229	2,524
June 2007	193	243	296	410	132	362	168	154	202	155	248	2,563
July 2007	263	219	383	406	125	337	179	156	223	191	215	2,697
August 2007	197	244	306	359	102	327	133	155	224	192	226	2,465
September 2007	192	244	303	408	111	300	135	127	259	167	218	2,464

Date of incident by SHA (January 2005-December 2007)

Date of incident	Missing data[1]	SHA										Total
		East Midlands SHA	East of England SHA	London SHA	North East SHA	North West SHA	South Central SHA	South East Coast SHA	South West SHA	West Midlands SHA	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	
October 2007	219	253	326	366	128	368	153	170	279	187	268	2,717
November 2007	211	252	287	383	146	325	152	148	215	159	215	2,493
December 2007	178	205	282	352	105	291	115	126	213	160	205	2,232
Total	8,468	6,129	7,280	10,233	2,442	9,623	3,740	3,675	5,968	3,919	6,671	68,148

[1] Contains incidents where a matching SHA code was not found this will include incidents submitted by e-form, NHS direct, community pharmacy and Welsh incidents.

Source:

National Patient Safety Agency

NHS: Private Patients

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been refused further NHS treatment in Chorley because of the prohibition on co-payments in each year since 1997. [213650]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which constituencies the regional stakeholder events on *(a)* the Darzi Review and *(b)* the reform of the care and support system will be held; and in which constituencies the regional stakeholder events for the new deal for carers were held. [212202]

Ann Keen: The national health service next stage review has engaged with stakeholders at a variety of events including deliberative events, a stakeholder forum, national clinical summit and at events organised by stakeholder organisations in the following locations:

Constituency

Cities of London and Westminster
Holborn and St. Pancras
Yeovil
Hackney South and Shoreditch
Hammersmith and Fulham
Leeds Central
Colne Valley
Sunderland North
Gateshead East and Washington West
Manchester Central
Wythenshawe and Sale East
North West Hampshire
Oxford West and Abingdon
Derby South
Tiverton and Honiton
Exeter
Hastings and Rye
Ashford
Birmingham Edgbaston
Harlow
Epping Forest
Oldham East and Saddleworth
Vauxhall
Poplar and Canning Town
Birmingham Ladywood
Maidstone and the Weald
Northavon
Nottingham South
Manchester Central
Newcastle Upon Tyne North
City of York
Norwich North
Reading East
Bury St. Edmunds
Bridgwater
Tonbridge and Malling
Bolton West
Tyne Bridge

Strategic health authorities have also undertaken their own process of engagement with stakeholders and will continue to do so following the publication of their local visions.

Locations of the regional stakeholder events on the reform of the care and support system:

Constituency

Manchester Central
Leicester South
Leeds Central
Holborn and St. Pancras
Meriden
Tyne Bridge
Bristol West
Norwich North
Brighton, Pavilion

Locations of the regional carer events for the Carers' Strategy:

Constituency

Birmingham, Ladywood
Exeter
Guildford
Leeds Central
Maidstone and the Weald
Manchester Central
Tyne Bridge
Norwich South
Nottingham South

Location of the deliberative events for the Carers' Strategy:

Constituency

Cities of London and Westminster

North Southwark and Bermondsey (Young Carers Deliberative event)

Leeds Central

Location of the final consultative event for the Carers' Strategy:

Constituency

Leeds Central

NHS: Training and posts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dermatology *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy posts were established in each of the last five years; [213033]

(2) how many ophthalmology *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy posts were established in each of the last five years; [213034]

(3) how many psychiatry *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy posts were established in each of the last five years; [213035]

(4) how many *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy posts were established for (i) neurology, (ii) cardiology and (iii) gynaecology in each of the last five years. [213088]

Ann Keen: The number of training posts and consultancy posts that are established each year is not collected centrally. The National Health Service Workforce Census does collect the number of staff in post as at 30 September each year and these are shown in the following tables.

Dermatology

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	415	440	450	454	444
Registrar Group	155	183	195	188	205
Senior House Officer	75	71	72	56	27
Foundation Year 2		—		9	13
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	3	4	1	4	5

Ophthalmology

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	755	793	820	816	839
Registrar Group	385	431	450	434	638
Senior House Officer	439	426	442	391	117
Foundation Year 2	—	—	—	36	47
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	1	3	5	7	6

Psychiatry Group

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	3,229	3,555	3,759	3,805	3,957
Registrar Group	1,006	1,034	1,032	1,022	2,796
Senior House Officer	1,997	2,426	2,538	2,554	484
Foundation Year 2				88	195
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	14	10	28	50	66

Neurology

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	410	449	487	506	539
Registrar Group	190	214	201	231	297
Senior House Officer	149	153	174	163	46
Foundation Year 2			—	28	23
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	4	7	4	8	7

Cardiology

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	659	710	725	752	752
Registrar Group	449	537	578	591	814
Senior House Officer	310	359	374	307	80
Foundation Year 2	—	—	—	64	71
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	56	65	76	96	113

Obstetrics and gynaecology

Number (headcount)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants	1,353	1,413	1,458	1,506	1,506
Registrar Group	973	1,099	1,290	1,328	2,197
Senior House Officer	1,451	1,472	1,522	1,318	424
Foundation Year 2	—	—	—	184	229
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	19	26	45	58	84

Organs: Donors

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress he has made on implementing the recommendations of the Organ Donation Taskforce; and if he will make a statement; [213652]

(2) what steps he has taken to develop the network of donation transplant coordinators recommended by the Organ Donation Taskforce. [213653]

Ann Keen: The Department has established an Organ Donation Taskforce Programme Delivery Board, chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, medical director of the national health service to oversee implementation of the recommendations.

NHS Blood and Transplant, which is represented on the Delivery Board, is leading on work to develop a network of donor transplant co-ordinators and has an agreed strategy in place for the establishment of four teams in 2008-09. The remainder, likely to be a further eight teams, will be established in 2009-10.

Pregnant Women: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the conception rate among people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* under 16 years was in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [198218]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Conception rate for girls aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* under 16 years by Government Office Region (GOR), England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the following table. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

(a) Conception rate for girls aged under 18 by Government Office Region (GOR), 2002-2006

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England and Wales	42.9	42.4	41.8	41.4	40.7
England	42.7	42.2	41.6	41.3	40.4
North East	51.1	52.2	50.8	50.0	48.3
North West	45.3	45.1	45.7	46.6	44.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	47.0	46.7	47.3	47.7	46.6
East Midlands	40.4	41.2	40.8	40.2	39.6
West Midlands	47.0	47.4	45.2	45.5	46.4
East of England	34.6	33.3	32.7	32.7	33.2
London	52.8	51.8	49.2	46.0	45.4
South East	34.4	33.1	33.3	34.1	32.9
South West	35.3	34.1	34.3	34.0	32.9
Wales	46.0	45.7	45.1	43.6	44.8

Note:
1. Figures for 2006 are provisional.
2. Rates are per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

(b) Conception rate for girls aged under 16 by Government Office Region (GOR), 2002-2006

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England and Wales	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.7
England	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.7
North East	9.3	10.2	9.9	9.8	9.7
North West	8.0	8.6	7.8	8.5	8.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	9.4	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.6
East Midlands	7.5	7.3	7.3	7.7	7.1
West Midlands	8.6	8.7	8.4	8.8	9.0
East of England	6.3	6.1	5.7	6.0	5.8
London	9.8	9.9	9.0	8.6	8.6
South East	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.4	5.9
South West	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.7	6.5
Wales	8.4	8.1	7.5	7.9	8.6

Note:
1. Figures for 2006 are provisional.
2. Rates are per 1,000 females aged 13-15.

Respiratory System: Durham

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in County Durham. [211827]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. However, the following table contains data for the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) area. This information is extracted from the "Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2006-07" data tables showing prevalence in PCT areas. The information can be found on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-patient-care/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework-qof-2006/07/qof-2006-07-data-tables

County Durham PCT

	Number/percentage
Number of practices	73
Sum of list sizes	523,901
Sum of COPD register counts	11,995
COPD unadjusted prevalence (percentage)	
PCT	2.3
England	1.4

Notes

Definition of prevalence

Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence information for 2006-07 is based on the 8,372 practices that were in the QOF achievement dataset.

For 17 of the 19 areas of the clinical domain, the Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) captures the number of patients on the clinical register for each practice. (The other two clinical areas, depression and smoking indicators, are based on subsets of other clinical registers.) The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.

Raw prevalence for each clinical area is defined as a percentage of patients on a practice list:

Raw prevalence = (number on clinical register/number on practice list) x 100

QOF prevalence

It is important to emphasise that QOF registers do not necessarily equate to prevalence, as defined by epidemiologists. For example, prevalence figures based on QOF registers (eg obesity) may differ from prevalence figures from other sources because of coding or definitional issues. QOF registers are constructed to underpin indicators on quality of care. QMAS only uses 'Read codes' that are common to all three versions. It is difficult to interpret year-on-year changes in the size of QOF registers. For example, a gradual rise in QOF prevalence could be due partly to epidemiological factors (such as an ageing population) or due partly to increased case finding.

Spina Bifida: Research

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on research into spina bifida in each of the last three years. [213565]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with spina bifida, are available on the archived national research register at

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx.

The Department's Policy Research Programme has at the same time funded the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, the Northern Congenital Abnormality Survey, and the Congenital Abnormality Register for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, each of which has undertaken work of relevance to spina bifida.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC funded three projects relevant to spina bifida between 2004-05 and 2006-07 at a total cost of £1.4 million, and has recently awarded a grant of £606,000 for research aimed at understanding the molecular causes and mechanisms of prevention of inositol-preventable neural tube defects.

In 1991, an MRC-funded randomised, controlled trial showed that folic acid supplements protect women with a prior pregnancy affected by spina bifida from recurrence. This research resulted in 10 per cent. of the world's flour being fortified with folic acid, preventing thousands of cases of serious birth deformities and saving large sums of money in health care costs.

Strokes: Rehabilitation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve support for people with communication disabilities following strokes; and if he will make a statement. [213464]

Ann Keen: The new "National Stroke Strategy", published in December 2007 (copies of which are available in the Library), sets out 20 quality markers for the provision of high quality treatment and care for adult stroke survivors. Of those quality markers seven link directly to the kind of support and services which those who have had a stroke and their carers need in the community. These include support with communication disabilities and other high quality rehabilitation, information, advice, practical and peer support throughout the care pathway, in line with individual need.

In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation. This includes £45 million to local authorities (LAs) to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. We expect that LAs will work with their national health service partners in this.

Strokes: Speech Impaired

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* advice is being made available to Wakefield council for the commissioning of communication disability support groups for those who have had strokes; [213111]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with a stroke-related communication disability in *(a)* Wakefield district primary care trust area, *(b)* West Yorkshire strategic health authority area and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency in each of the last five years. [213229]

Ann Keen: The new National Stroke Strategy, published in December 2007 (copies of which are available in the Library), sets out 20 quality markers for the provision of high quality treatment and care for adult stroke survivors. Of those quality markers, seven link directly to the kind of support and services which those who have had a stroke and their carers need in the community. These include support with communication disabilities, and other high quality rehabilitation, information, advice, practical and peer support throughout the care pathway, in line with individual need.

In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation. This includes £45 million to local authorities (LAs), including Wakefield metropolitan district council, to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. The strategy recognises that some people who have had a stroke, including those with aphasia and other communication difficulties, will have specific support needs. We expect that LAs will use some the new funding we have made available to meet these needs in line with local needs and priorities.

Information on the number of people diagnosed with a stroke-related communication disability is not collected centrally.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of communication support services for those who have had strokes. [213112]

Ann Keen: The Department, with stakeholders from across the stroke community, including academics, clinicians, the voluntary sector and stroke survivors and their carers, looked at the available evidence in relation to support services when preparing the new "National Stroke Strategy" (copies are available in the Library). The Strategy was published in December 2007 and makes recommendations to the national health service about the most effective way to support those who have had a stroke.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what communication support services are available for those who have had strokes; and if he will make a statement. [213113]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. However, the new "National Stroke Strategy" (copies of which are available in the Library) recognises that people who have had a stroke, including those with aphasia and other communication difficulties, will have specific support needs. The services which primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities (LAs) provide for those people will depend on local needs and priorities. The Strategy also makes clear that those with aphasia and related conditions should be involved in the planning of the support services they require.

In addition to the funding that has gone to PCTs, central funding over three years will support implementation of the new national Strategy, including £45 million to local authorities to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. We expect that PCTs and LAs will use the funding available to meet these needs in line with local needs and priorities.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Refugees

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many refugees there are in Afghanistan; and where the largest refugee camps are. [212452]

Dr. Howells: There are no refugee camps in Afghanistan, but there are a number of refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 2.1 million registered refugees in Pakistan and a further 1 million unregistered. Likewise in Iran there are approximately 1 million registered refugees and a further 1 million unregistered. UNHCR also believe that there are approximately 176,500 internally displaced persons in Afghanistan. It is believed that 31,500 of these were displaced by the on-going conflict.

Africa: Administration of Justice

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's latest estimate is of the proportion of arrests in *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* Ethiopia, *(c)* Sudan and *(d)* Chad which are followed by a case investigation and court hearing. [213363]

Meg Munn: In its 2007 Annual Report, the Nigerian police stated that 131,151 people were arrested and 80,191 people were prosecuted in Nigeria. We are unable to provide similar data for Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad as to do so would incur a disproportionate cost. In Nigeria, the UK supports the Federal Ministry of Justice in developing its justice information management system. It also works with Lagos and Enugu States on enhancing criminal case tracking and management capabilities. In Ethiopia, the UK supports a variety of related initiatives including promoting better record management in prisons.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [214014]

Meg Munn: We remain deeply concerned at the political situation in Burma. The regime continues to ignore the calls of the UN Security Council for a genuine and inclusive dialogue with the opposition and ethnic groups. Such a dialogue is the only way the country will achieve the national reconciliation, prosperity and stability it needs now more than ever. The renewal of Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest on 27 May, and the regime's decision to undertake its flawed referendum in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, underline the urgency of making progress. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 19 June 2008, the recent referendum lacks all credibility and the new constitution cannot provide a sound basis for Burma's future.

Working in support of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission and encouraging Burma's neighbours to play a more active role, we will continue to do all we can to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Burma.

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Scheme

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which 10 UK universities have the highest number of students supported by the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. [213312]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The 12 universities with the highest number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded scholars under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in 2007-08 (three universities are in 10th equal place) are shown in the following table:

University	*Total*
University of Oxford	32
University of Cambridge	13
London School of Economics and Political Science	9

University	*Total*
King's College London	5
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	5
University of Sussex	4
School of Oriental and African Studies	3
University College London	3
University of Warwick	3
Goldsmiths College	2
University of Durham	2
University of Edinburgh	2
Institutions with one award holder	9
Total	92

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of overseas students receiving funding from the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Scheme are studying at *(a)* undergraduate, *(b)* Masters and *(c)* doctoral level. [213313]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The following proportion of Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded scholars under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in 2007-08 are studying at Master's and Doctoral level. There are no awards at undergraduate level.

Level of Study	*Degree*	*Award-Holders*	*Percentage*
Master's	Master of Philosophy research	4	
	Master of Research	1	
	Bachelor of Civil Law	1	
	Bachelor of Philosophy	1	
	Master of Law	4	
	Master of Arts, taught	6	
	Master of Fine Arts	1	
	Master of Public Administration	1	
	Master of Philosophy, taught	5	
	Master of Science, taught	14	
Master's Total		38	41
Doctoral	Split-Site Doctorate of Philosophy	1	
	Doctorate of Philosophy	23	
	Master of Philosophy research (initial registration)	4	
	Doctorate of Philosophy	26	
Doctoral Total		54	59
Total		92	100

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212497]

Meg Munn: The gross rates of pay per hour worked for staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) during the financial year 2007-08 are set out in the following table. We do not hold details centrally of actual rates paid to temporary staff by hiring managers. We have therefore provided the minimum rate for this category of staff.

FCO grade	*Civil service equivalent*	*Permanent staff rate (average) (£)*	*Temporary staff rate (minimum) (£)*
Band A	Administrative Assistant, Administrative Officer	9.73	7.84
Band B	Executive Officer	12.22	10.41
Band C	Higher Executive Officer, Senior Executive Officer	16.08	11.58
Band D	Grade 6, Grade 7	24.46	19.73
Senior Management Structure (SMS) Payband 1	Senior Civil Service (SCS) Payband 1	34.96	29.85
SMS Payband 2	SCS Payband 2	47.45	43.42
SMS Payband 3 and 4	SCS Payband 3	68.03	53.19

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213128]

Meg Munn: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employees and contractors/consultants are subjected to criminal record checks as part of the national security vetting process. The FCO has direct links to the police national computer, which shows both spent and unspent convictions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213148]

Meg Munn: All successful applicants for jobs at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are subject to criminal record checks as part of the national security vetting process. Further information in respect of the number of successful applicants and those found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

European External Action Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the European Commission's report on the COREPER—Committee of Permanent Representatives—meetings on the European External Action Service held on 7 and 13 May 2008. [210210]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* It is for the European Commission to decide what it does with internal records of meetings attended by its officials.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the European Union's new financial sanctions on Iran with particular reference to Iran's uranium enrichment programme; and if he will make a statement. [214016]

Dr. Howells: On 23 June the EU formally approved the listing of several Iranian individuals and entities, including Bank Melli, under its previous Common Positions. The UK has long argued for EU measures against Iran to reinforce those already imposed in UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1737, UNSCR 1747 and UNSCR 1803. We will pursue further EU action in the coming months and will argue for rigorous EU implementation, of UNSCR 1803 in a new Common Position, which is currently under discussion. The Government fully support strengthening sanctions against Iran, including financial measures, as part of the E3+3's dual-track process of engagement and pressure, to persuade Iran to comply with the Security Council and co-operate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for recent trends in the levels of violence in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [213367]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in Iraq varies from province to province. The security situation in Iraq has improved significantly over the course of the second half of 2007 and 2008. In and around Baghdad, violence has reduced to levels not seen since 2005.

There are a number of factors that have contributed towards the downturn in levels of violence across Iraq. The increased capacity and capability of the Iraqi security forces has had a positive impact in reducing levels of violence. Other factors include the surge of US forces and the emergence of predominantly Sunni tribal 'Awakening' Councils and Sons of Iraq/Concerned Local Citizens, who have turned against al-Qa'eda. The continued ceasefire declared by Moqtada al Sadr in August 2007 has also had a positive effect in the south, although we remain concerned about violence committed by militant elements linked to the Sadrist movement.

Iraq: Military Bases

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on a status of forces agreement permitting US forces to establish permanent military bases in Iraq and granting US forces immunity from Iraqi law; and if he will make a statement. [213355]

Dr. Howells: The US and the Government of Iraq are currently discussing the legal basis for the presence of US military forces following the expiry of UN Security Council Resolution 1790 mandate at the end of 2008. These discussions are essentially a matter for the two countries concerned. We are following their progress closely, however, and are in discussion with coalition partners and the Government of Iraq over our own legal requirements following the end of 2008, with a view to ensuring that our military (and civilian) assistance to Iraq remains on a sound legal footing.

Iraq: Politics and Government

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on development of a mainstream political party by Muqtada al-Sadr in Iraq if the Mahdi Army disbands; and if he will make a statement. [213366]

Dr. Howells: We encourage all communities in Iraq to engage with the political process and to turn their backs on violence. Political engagement by all sectors of Iraqi society will be crucial in achieving lasting progress on national reconciliation and we continue to support the Government of Iraq in efforts to achieve this goal.

However, we remain concerned that part of Muqtada al-Sadr's 13 June statement stated that his organisation would continue to attack coalition forces. As Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki has said, weapons should only be in the hands of the Iraqi security forces. Coalition forces are in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government and under a UN mandate; they should be able to continue their job of helping to build a stable and secure Iraq without fear of attack.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Gaza and (ii) the Lebanon in each week since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [212413]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Further to the hon. Member's question of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 814W, we do not have a detailed breakdown of the figures. However, according to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, almost 1,000 rockets and over 1,000 mortar bombs fired from the Gaza Strip have struck southern Israel between January 2008 and May 2008.

Since January 2007 there have been two incidents of rockets being fired from Lebanon into Israel. On 17 June 2007 two rockets fired from Lebanon hit the town of Kiryat Shemona in northern Israel. On 8 January 2008 two rockets fired from Lebanon hit the Israeli town of Shlomi. The UK condemns these attacks which are a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon to prevent such attacks in the future.

Russia: British Council

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Russian counterpart on the conduct of British Council activities in Russia. [213844]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 June 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the British Council with his Russian counterpart Foreign Minister Lavrov during their bilateral meeting in London on 1 May 2008.

The British Council operates in Moscow under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and the 1994 bilateral UK/Russia Agreement on Co-operation in Education, Science and Culture.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress towards establishing a National Human Rights Commission in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [213282]

Meg Munn: The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) established the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) which was mandated to set up the National Human Rights Commission. The NCRC has drafted the necessary legislation but this has not yet been passed. In the south, a Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission was set up in June 2006. The Interim National Constitution, adopted in 2005 under the CPA, includes a Bill of Rights that enshrines the principle of human rights at all levels of government and society.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals he is considering to strengthen the UN Mission in Sudan's human rights mandate; and if he will make a statement. [213283]

Meg Munn: The UK remains closely involved in supporting the reviews of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) mandate. UN Security Council Resolution 1590, which first mandated UNMIS, ensured that UNMIS has "adequate human rights presence and expertise". We support the UN's assessment that the extant mandate is sufficient to underpin UNMIS's monitoring and reporting of human rights violations.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international mechanisms exist to investigate allegations of human rights abuses by Sudanese armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [213284]

Meg Munn: Both the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) incorporate an extensive human rights network, with officers investigating alleged human rights abuses by any party. Both UNMIS and UNAMID produce a weekly report of such allegations. Where there is evidence of specific human rights abuse by the Sudanese armed forces—or any other warring faction—we raise it with the appropriate authorities.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of the conflict in Darfur affecting the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [213281]

Meg Munn: The conflict in Darfur has drawn national and international attention away from implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The census carried out in April and May was a milestone in preparing for elections, but high numbers of people displaced by conflict pose significant challenges to achieving free and fair elections.

The CPA is the bedrock for future peace and stability throughout Sudan. The conflict in Darfur will not be resolved without successful implementation of the CPA. We are working with all parties and international partners to implement the CPA, end the conflict in Darfur and to bring lasting peace to Sudan.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent clashes in the Abyei area of Sudan on *(a)* the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and *(b)* the conflict in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [213285]

Meg Munn: The fighting in Abyei in mid-May posed a serious threat to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement have shown their commitment to the CPA by agreeing on 8 June a road map to resolve the Abyei dispute.

The CPA is the bedrock for future peace and stability throughout Sudan. The conflict in Darfur will not be resolved without the successful implementation of the CPA. We are working with both parties and international partners to implement fully the Abyei road map and the CPA and to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards developing a joint conflict management strategy along the North-South border in Sudan between the UN Mission in Sudan and the UN country team as referred to in the UN Secretary General's report to the UN Security Council (S/2008/267); and if he will make a statement. [213286]

Meg Munn: The UN, supported by the international community, has a strategy to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and has deployed a multi-functional military and civil mission to do so. This includes the monitoring of areas of tension along the border. The UN Development Programme held discussions in June on developing a common strategy for the border and for the transitional areas.

The UN Mission in Sudan and UN agencies contributed to a stability and development assessment of the three disputed areas, led by the Department for International Development, which was completed in April this year. The second phase of the assessment, covering the south and the border region, will take place in September/October of this year. The UN continues to review and adjust its focus through assessment and renewal of its mandates.

Terrorism

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to paragraph 3.27 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, which states he suspects of state-sponsored terrorism. [212406]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As the National Security Strategy says, we are alert to the possibility of sponsorship of terrorist activity by states. However, it is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters and it would not be in the interest of national security to discuss, in public, our assessment of possible links between terrorist groups and individual states.

Terrorism: International Co-operation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on joint working against global terrorism since the 20 September 2004 joint declaration with India. [212167]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK and India enjoy a close working relationship on countering terrorism and extremism. This is underpinned by Prime Ministerial agreement at annual UK/India summits to work together in specific areas.

At the most recent summit in January we agreed to intensify mutual exchange of views, experiences and practical cooperation in the fight against terrorism. We have agreed to build on existing co-operation, including in the protection of critical national infrastructure, mass transit systems and the security of major sporting events—including the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games and the 2012 London Olympics. In addition, we have agreed to expand co-operation on civil aviation security and crisis management and to establish a new bilateral dialogue on terrorist financing.

Multilaterally, the UK and India remain committed to pursuing an agreement in the UN on the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. The UK continues to support India's request for full membership of the Financial Action Task Force.

We expect to further strengthen co-operation through a meeting of the Indo-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism later this year.

United Arab Emirates: Drugs

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* sentenced for drugs offences in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years. [212091]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number of UK citizens who have been arrested and sentenced for drugs offences in the United Arab Emirates in each of the past five years are as follows:

Abu Dhabi

Drugs related offences:

2004-05 three arrested and sentenced, one arrested and deported in 2006

2006-07 one arrested and sentenced, one arrested and released

2008 to date one arrested pending judgement.

Dubai

	Number
2004	[1]—
2005-06	11
2006-07	33
2007-08	55
April 2008 to date	10

[1] Figures for 2004-05 cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

United Arab Emirates: Prisoners

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made on behalf of British citizens imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates; and if he will make a statement. [212092]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are currently 43 British citizens imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Consular officers can consider approaching the local authorities only if a British citizen is not treated according to internationally accepted standards. This may include where a trial does not follow internationally recognised standards for a fair trial or is unreasonably delayed compared to local cases. We have no record of any such approaches having been made in the UAE in recent years.

Additionally, with the prisoner's permission, consular officers can take up any justified complaint about ill treatment, personal safety, or discrimination with the police or prison authorities. We have no record of any such issues having been raised in recent times with UAE authorities. However, we have on occasion brought welfare concerns to the attention of prison authorities. These usually involve dietary and medical issues raised by prisoners. Our consulate in Dubai has taken up four cases of ill treatment with the Dubai authorities in the last three years. Posts also continue to liaise with the authorities in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi to ensure that the appeals are progressing.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations from the UN on Morocco's claim of sovereignty over the territory of Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [212229]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has not received representations from the UN on Morocco's claim of sovereignty over the territory of Western Sahara. The UK regards the sovereignty of Western Sahara as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a solution. The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

UN Security Council Resolution 1813 of November 2007 extended the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and called on the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. The UK fully supports these negotiations and has called on the parties to continue to engage in the process in a spirit of realism and compromise.

The UK maintains regular contact with Mr. van Walsum, both at the UN in New York and when he has visited the UK.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 June 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister if he will hold meetings of the Cabinet outside London. [211596]

The Prime Minister: There is no reason why the Cabinet cannot meet outside of London. It has done so in the past and we shall consider it where appropriate in the future.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Office which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215182]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on departmental manpower, (1) how many of the people in each unit are special advisers; and how many staff there are in the Political Office; [214744]

(2) what the official descriptions are of the jobs in the categories *(a)* private office, *(b)* Number 10 Policy Unit, *(c)* press officers, *(d)* strategic communications unit and *(e)* research and information; and who is employed in each category; [214745]

(3) how many staff in his Office *(a)* are classified as Government communicators and *(b)* have access to the Government Communication Network. [215115]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much was spent by 10 Downing Street on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214879]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by 10 Downing Street in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214880]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 303W.

George Bush

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether consideration was given to arranging for President Bush to fly into a military airport on his recent visit to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [214393]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Nuclear Power: Private Sector

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with private sector nuclear operators in the United Kingdom prior to his speech on 22nd June to the International Oil Summit in Jeddah. [214312]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. I also refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 23 June 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15831.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Coroners: Juries

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely effect in Northern Ireland of the provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Bill if enacted allowing for inquests to be held without a jury. [214410]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office maintains close contact with the Home Office with regard to the development of counter-terrorism policy and legislation.

Northern Ireland Office Ministers were in direct contact with their colleagues in the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice about the proposals relating to inquests contained in the Counter-Terrorism Bill.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211683]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its executive agencies have hosted the following conferences in each of the last two years:

Conference	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	
Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland Annual Stakeholder Conference	46,033.85
Chaplains Conference	4,037.85
2007-08	
Chaplains Conference	3,665.05
Claims Conference	336.05
Restorative Practice Conference	3,000.00
Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland Annual Stakeholder Conference	14,788.88
Criminal Justice Week Delay Seminar	8,620.26

In addition a political summit was held at St. Andrews in October 2006. Details of costs were provided in a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211761]

Mr. Woodward: My Department and its agencies do not separately record the amount of expenditure on chairs, desks and other office furnishings. The total amount spent is only available for each of the last three years and is set out in the following table.

			£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
NIO	27	22	14
Youth Justice Agency	84	56	41
Crown Solicitors Office	1	3	3
Northern Ireland Prison Service	57	88	164
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	5	7	10
Public Prosecution Service	[1]	[1]	[1]
Compensation Agency	8	5	3

[1] Not available.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213702]

Mr. Woodward: In the period in question my Department completed one project in excess of £0.5 million—a new building in financial year 2006-07. It achieved a BREEAM rating of excellent.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213751]

Mr. Woodward: In the period in question my Department completed one project in excess of £0.5million—a new building in financial year 2006-07.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with what *(a)* republican paramilitary groups and *(b)* factions of such groups representatives of the Government held discussions over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [213595]

Mr. Woodward: The Government have met with a variety of groups over the last 10 years as a way of providing a route out of paramilitarism into normal politics for those who wish to take it. I am sure that everybody looks forward to the day when all vestiges of Northern Ireland's paramilitary extreme have been relegated to where they belong—the past.

Security: Licensing

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people with convictions for scheduled offences were granted a licence to run a private security firm in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [202236]

Paul Goggins: To establish whether a licence has been granted to any individual with a scheduled conviction would incur disproportionate cost.

Under the legislation the Secretary of State must grant a licence to a private security firm in Northern Ireland unless satisfied that a proscribed organisation would benefit (either financially or non-financially) from the licence, or there has been persistent failure to comply with the licensing regime. Since 1 August 2007 the Secretary of State has also been able to refuse a licence if satisfied that the applicant is engaged in criminal activity. Advice is sought from PSNI and the Security Service to ascertain whether or not any of the conditions for refusal of a licence apply in the case of an applicant.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213749]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not record the quantity procured or amount spent specifically on timber and timber products.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213750]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not record the quantity of timber procured from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner, neither does it record expenditure on such products.

Current contract conditions specify that timber and timber derived products must be provided from legal and sustainable sources.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by the House of Commons Services for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213689]

Nick Harvey: There were no *(a)* new builds or *(b)* major refurbishments completed by the House of Commons Services with a value in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied.

The last new build completed on the Commons Estate was Portcullis House which received a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method rating of Excellent in December 2001.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1142-43W, and the hon. Member for Aberdeen, North of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 174W, on freedom of information: requests for data held, what the estimated cost is of preparing for publication the information on hon. Members' expenses to be released in the autumn. [212587]

Nick Harvey: It is planned to produce the information by scanning the material in the paper files to provide computer files of digital images, and to edit these to remove some sensitive information. Some of this work may be done by a contractor in secure conditions. The remainder will be carried out by the House's own staff, who will then send the material proposed for release to the Members concerned and will also need to deal with any representations made. The costs of this work are subject to substantial uncertainty but are expected to be in the region of £950,000.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 532W, on bovine tuberculosis, when he plans to respond to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's recent report on badgers and bovine tuberculosis, HC 130. [212671]

Jonathan Shaw: The position remains unchanged from that reported on 13 June. We continue to consider the complex evidence on this issue and will respond to the Committee as soon as our deliberations are complete.

Environment Agency: Vacancies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W, on flood control: vacancies, (1) how many vacancies for *(a)* flood risk engineers, *(b)* flood risk planners, *(c)* flood risk project managers and *(d)* other flood risk management posts there were in the Environment Agency in each region on 1 April in each of the last five years; [211535]

(2) for how long each post for *(a)* flood risk engineers, *(b)* flood risk planners, *(c)* flood risk project managers and *(d)* other flood risk management referred to has been vacant. [211536]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Environment Protection: Skilled Workers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department *(a)* is undertaking and *(b)* has commissioned on the skills required to deliver a low carbon economy; and with which other Departments and non-departmental public bodies his Department is collaborating on such research. [213514]

Mr. Woolas: On 1 May 2008, the Government published "Building a low carbon economy: unlocking innovation and skills". This sets out how the Government will make the UK one of the best locations in the world to develop and introduce low carbon and resource efficient products, processes, services and business models.

DEFRA officials are working proactively with the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, employers, Sector Skills Councils, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and expert bodies representing the environmental industries. The aim is to develop our evidence and understanding of the skills implications of the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient and sustainable economy and to ensure that these at the heart of our skills system. This includes a research project, commissioned in April 2008, to review the current evidence in this area.

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided to implement each Catchment Flood Management Plan. [214231]

Mr. Woolas: Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) are intended to be high level strategic planning tools providing direction for the management of flood risk in the inland environment. They are not themselves investment plans and hence funding will not be specifically allocated to the implementation of an individual plan.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on its six policy choices for the Catchment Flood Management Plan; and what guidance the Agency has provided on the suitability of policy choices for particular areas. [214232]

Mr. Woolas: Extensive discussions were held between the Environment Agency, DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government on the six policy choices for a Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) and the Policy Guidance for the preparation of CFMPs was a joint publication. The Environment Agency has developed detailed guidance for policy selection for individual areas. The choice of policy requires consideration of current and potential future flood risk along with catchment opportunities and constraints, to develop objectives for the catchment. These objectives are then used to test the merits of the alternative policy choices in order to decide a preferred policy.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the modelling of the Environment Agency on individual Catchment Flood Management Plans is available for consultation by the public. [214233]

Mr. Woolas: The modelling used in developing a Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) is not included within the consultation material made available to the public as part of the draft plan. The relevant parts of the output from the modelling is included in the draft plan.

Floods

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will publish the Pitt review on flooding. [212942]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for Environment (Hilary Benn) welcomed the publication of the Pitt report on 25 June. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Warm Front Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget allocation to the Warm Front programme his Department *(a)* made in each year since the programme's establishment and *(b)* for each of the next three years. [215273]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front spend since the scheme's inception in 2000 is outlined as follows:

Scheme year	*Approximate total spend/budget (£ million)*
2000-01	72
2001-02	197
2002-03	163
2003-04	164
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350

Warm Front's budget for the 2008-11 period is approximately £800 million. However, the yearly breakdown over this period has not yet been finalised.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Biofuels

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential effect of use of biofuels in petrol and diesel on food prices. [214202]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

In April 2008, DEFRA published a report on the sustainability impact of biofuels which reviewed the existing research on the impact of biofuels on commodity and food prices. It is available on the DEFRA website.

The Government are concerned about the effect of rising food prices and the contribution that the demand for biofuels could make to that. The Government will give careful consideration to the findings of the Gallagher Review in respect of the impacts of biofuels on food prices.

Biofuels: Grants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants are available to *(a)* biomass producers and *(b)* producers of other biofuels. [211988]

Malcolm Wicks: The main Government support mechanism for biofuels comes in the form of fuel duty incentives and since April 2008, through the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. Further information is at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/

However there are a number of grants available to biomass and biofuel producers.

Support for farmers:

The £47 million Energy Crops Scheme, administered by Natural England under the 2007-13 Rural Development Programme England, aims to increase the supply of biomass from perennial energy crops. Farmers can claim 40 per cent. of establishment costs for miscanthus and short rotation coppice. The crops can be used for heat and power generation and potentially for second generation transport biofuels. Similar schemes are available in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Farmers can claim the EU annual €45/ha Energy Aid payment for crops grown on non set-aside land for use in the generation of heat, power or transport biofuels. The Single Payment can be claimed for these crops grown on both set-aside and non set-aside land.

Support for installations:

The Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme

This £66 million scheme, joint-funded by BERR and the National Lottery's New Opportunities Fund scheme was Launched in February 2002. Although intended to principally encourage the development of power stations, a clear priority of the scheme was to increase usage of energy crops. These rounds of the scheme are now closed with no further applications being taken.

Subsequent rounds of the scheme are being funded by DEFRA to support the installation of biomass heat boilers and combined heat and power plants in England only. So far, around £8 million of capital grants have been awarded, with around £4 million still to be allocated. Subject to funding, DEFRA hopes to run another round later this year, with further rounds in 2009 and 2010.

BERR, in association with industry, academia and other stakeholders, also provides Research and Development (R and D) support through its Technology Strategy Board (TSB)—including support work on next-generation biofuels and biorefineries. The TSB provides Government funding for innovative business-led R and D. In December 2008 it announced a £10 million call for collaborative R and D projects in the 'Low Carbon Energy Technologies' area, including bio-energy.

Grant funding may also be available through the EU's Framework Programme 7 and Intelligent Energy Europe Programmes, which support collaborative Research, Development and Deployment into innovative energy technologies, and collaborative projects to address barriers to market entry for new energy technologies. Where projects fit with this description, further detail is available through the UK's dedicated helpline, at:

www.energiehelpline.co.uk

or by telephoning: 0161 874 3636.

More widely, local authorities and Regional Development Agencies throughout the UK and the devolved administrations are at liberty to run and provide their own local support schemes for producers of biomass and biofuels.

Carbon Sequestration

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to *(a)* study the definitions, costs and scope for capture-ready fossil fuel plants and *(b)* consider economic incentives for the development of such plants. [209775]

Malcolm Wicks: The Gleneagles Action Plan invited the International Energy Agency (IEA) to work with the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) to study definitions, costs and scope for 'capture ready' plant and consider economic incentives. A report, "CO_2 Capture Ready Plants", was published by the IEA in May 2007. It is available at

http://www.iea.org/Textbase/publications/free_newDesc.asp?PUBS_ID=1980

Conclusions from this report were included in the IEA's recommendations submitted to the G8 Energy Ministers' meeting on 8 June 2008. G8 Energy Ministers supported all the recommendations on carbon capture and storage put forward by the IEA, including a recommendation for further work to be undertaken to understand and define the concept of "capture and storage ready" plants and its value as a viable mitigation strategy.

The full conclusions of the IEA's work will be reported to the G8 Summit in Hokkaido next month.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213220]

Mr. Thomas: The Department depreciates its assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual. The information requested is as follows:

	Years
Vehicles	[1]
Computer equipment	3 to 10
Furniture	7
Telecommunications equipment	5 to 10

[1] The Department does not own any vehicles.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213406]

Mr. Thomas: The Department re-values its building estate every five years, where appropriate.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213690]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not completed any new builds or major refurbishments over the periods in question to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211699]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expert groups his Department has set up since it was established. [213277]

Mr. Thomas: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" from 1999 to 2006 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

listed under the Department's former name Department of Trade and Industry.

Information on the Department's Public Bodies for 2007 can be downloaded from:

http://www.berr.gov.uk./about/strategy-objectives/annual-spending/page40391.[illegible]ml.

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many reviews of regulation his Department and its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210858]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's Better Regulation Simplification Plan published in December 2007 followed a detailed review of the administrative burdens imposed by all the regulations for which BERR and its agencies are responsible available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk//files/file42767.pdf

Our approach is to review regulation in line with the March 2008 White Paper "Post-legislative scrutiny: the Government's Approach" by the Office of the Leader of the House.

In addition, the revised Impact Assessment process has increased the focus on post implementation reviews.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* each of its executive agencies. [210836]

Mr. Thomas: The number of departmental access passes reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months, from 1 June 2006 to date, by BERR and its predecessor, DTI, is 106. There is nothing on the pass which indicates which buildings or organisations it gives access to.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Robert Burns, dated 23 June 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/2946) asking how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months by (a) his Department and (b) each of its executive agencies.

The amount of departmental identity cards lost/stolen from the Insolvency Service in the past 24 months is 9.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 23 June 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In the last 24 months Companies House has had 26 staff security passes reported lost; none have been reported stolen.

Departmental Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average number of days taken as sick leave in his Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [213203]

Mr. Thomas: Sickness absence data for the Department of Trade and Industry for 2004, 2005 and 2006-07, including the average number of days taken as sick leave, is published on the public civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

along with data for other Departments and agencies.

Cabinet Office has introduced a revised format for reporting sickness absence statistics across the civil service. The new format was introduced at the end of March 2008 and the first report covers the calendar year 2007. The first BERR report using this format indicated an average number of working days lost due to sickness absence as 6.1 for the calendar year to December 2007.

The most recent internal departmental data on sickness absence indicates that the average number of sick days taken per person in the year to 30 April 2008 was 5.8.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210859]

Mr. Thomas: The Department and its Executive agencies do not subscribe to any premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels. The Department does subscribe to the COI service which provides links to the House of Commons and House of Lords at an annual cost of £33,000.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213124]

Mr. Thomas: All new recruits to BERR are subject to a minimum of the HMG Basic Check. For all employees requiring unescorted access to BERR London offices, there is a check of both spent and unspent criminal records. For staff recruited to posts based outside of London, applicants are required to provide a self-declaration of unspent criminal records. On a random basis, 20 per cent. of these self-declarations are checked.

A check of both spent and unspent criminal records is carried out in support of national security vetting where this is deemed appropriate for specific posts.

Electricity: Research

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to identify and link centres of excellence for the promotion of research and development of electricity grids. [209776]

Malcolm Wicks: The International Energy Agency led the development of this work, with the support of its member states. The Agency held three workshops (November 2006, April 2007 and October 2007) to identify representatives of the major centres of excellence; to share experience; and to discuss the integration of variable renewables (wind, solar, wave, tidal) in electricity grids. The background material, presentations and findings of these workshops are available at:

(i) http://www.iea.org/Textbase/work/workshopdetail.asp?ID=284

(ii) http://www.iea.org/Textbase/work/workshopdetail.asp?WS_ID=314; and

(iii) http://www.iea.org/Textbase/work/workshopdetail.asp?WS_ID=335

The Agency's final report on the work—'Empowering Variable Renewables: Options for Flexible Electricity Systems'—is expected to be published at the end of July.

Energy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the potential of decentralised energy networks initiated by local councils to contribute to energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions reductions. [212825]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* In developing our policies on energy and carbon reduction we have received views and evidence from many organisations of the potential of decentralised energy networks to contribute to energy efficiency or climate change reductions, including those initiated by local councils. The Department has not itself made a comprehensive assessment of the potential of specific schemes initiated by local councils.

Energy: Conservation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to develop local commercial capacity projects promoting energy efficiency and low-carbon energy sources. [209773]

Malcolm Wicks: There are numerous examples of such projects under the Clean Energy Investment Framework implemented by the World Bank and the other regional development banks. These include:

The Inter American Development Bank's work in Peru which provided financing to support 100 small-scale hydropower plants operated by small local firms and community associations; and in Panama for a long term contract with small firms and community associations for hybrid energy supply scheme solar panels and wind energy to 4,000 households.

The World Bank's "Lighting Africa" initiative has trained over 100 local entrepreneurs and project developers from across 30 countries in Africa to access global carbon finance markets. It helps to scale up the implementation of the off-grid renewable and energy efficient lighting projects in their countries. For grid-based energy efficiency, the World Bank's "Efficient Lighting Initiative" is helping to develop the capacity of local counterparts (electric utilities, energy ministries, bureaus of standards and testing, and the private sector) in Africa, Asia and Latin America on best practices for large-scale deployment of efficient lighting systems (for example, replacing incandescent bulbs with energy saver compact fluorescent lamps—CFLs); and Under the Slovak Sustainable Energy Financing Facility, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has provided a €60 million credit line to four local banks to enable them to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. This support includes assistance to build capacity in the banks to appraise loan applications and to help sub-borrowers in developing energy audits and rational energy utilisation plans.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to develop a framework for energy investment to accelerate the adoption of cleaner and more efficient energy technologies. [209777]

Malcolm Wicks: The commitment was addressed to the World Bank and other multilateral development Banks.

To support the World Bank and other multilateral development Banks, the UK has committed over £15 million of grant technical assistance to their clean energy investment frameworks. These funds have been used to help the Banks undertake analytical work on climate change mitigation and adaptation issues, to study the economics of climate change and to undertake a number of low carbon growth strategies.

The multilateral development Banks have prepared a report to the G8 Summit entitled "Joint Multilateral Development Banks Report to the G8 on the Implementation of the Clean Energy Investment

Framework and Their Climate Change Agenda Going Forward". This report outlines what the Banks have done, individually and collectively, to make progress on several important aspects of the climate change agenda. The report describes each of the Banks' overall strategies and gives examples of specific programmes, approved by their Executive Boards which, in aggregate, amount to a global clean energy investment framework.

The multilateral development Banks have set out an investment programme of new energy lending of at least $117.7 billion between their financial years 2008-10 under the clean energy investment framework. This includes increased investment on energy access and low carbon technologies. They also commit to scaling up adaptation investments.

We have also been working with the multilateral development Banks, a number of other donor government, developing countries and civil society to establish the new climate investment funds: These funds are designed to help developing countries with low carbon and climate resilient development. The multilateral development Banks have estimated that if a minimum of $5 billion is provided under the new multilateral climate investment funds they could leverage an additional. $24 billion of additional programmes and projects.

European Chemicals Agency

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* role and *(b)* budget is of the European Chemicals Agency. [214167]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The role of the European Chemicals Agency is set out in European Regulation 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). It draws on its permanent staff and the member state experts on its various committees to manage the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of REACH. It also has a role in providing advice and guidance to industry and ensuring consistent application of the regulation across the European Union. Its budget for 2008 is approximately €66 million.

Exports: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the single individual export licences issued in 2007 with respect to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq had an end user which was a private military or security company. [212938]

Malcolm Wicks: Although information on end users is required for the assessment of Standard Individual Export Licence applications, the Government do not hold information by categories of end user.

The Government publish detailed information on export and trade control licences issued, refused and revoked, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in their Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. This does not however include information on end users, which is confidential.

The Government's Annual Report for 2007 has not yet been published, but the Quarterly Reports covering 2007, have been. The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, are available from the House of Commons Library, and all the Annual Reports from 2003 onwards, plus the Quarterly Reports covering 2007, are available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en//aboutthefco/publications/publications/annualreports/exportcontrols1

Fuel Poverty: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district who are eligible for a social tariff from energy suppliers. [214331]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is not available. Energy suppliers voluntarily provide a range of assistance to households vulnerable to fuel poverty, including social tariffs. In April the Government secured the individual agreement of the six largest energy suppliers to increase their collective spend on social assistance to £150 million a year by 2010-11. This will be spent on a number of initiatives including social tariffs, rebates and trust funds.

Industry: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the commitment to the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to develop partnerships with industry to reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity of major industrial sectors. [209772]

Malcolm Wicks: We have supported the International Energy Agency's Gleneagles programme of work, which included developing partnerships with industry. The Agency has produced a number of publications and workshops, including a IEA Chief Technology Officer Roundtable in January this year; and workshops on energy efficiency and CO_2 reductions in (a) the cement industry; (b) the pulp and paper Industry; (c) petrochemical products; (d) ammonia production; and (e) the aluminium industry

The G8, China, Korea and India, have recently established the new International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation, which includes the development of public-private partnerships in key energy consuming sectors.

Domestically, we have various initiatives in place to encourage industry to use energy and resources more efficiently. For example, the Manufacturing Advisory Service offers help and advice to small and medium-sized enterprises to improve their operational efficiency and promote innovation through best practice and improving resource efficiency in both energy and waste. The Carbon Trust offers support for the development of low carbon technologies across the whole innovation process, as well as advice to business on reducing their carbon emissions.

Microgeneration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has commissioned on consumer understanding of the technology options and financial support for the installation of domestic microgeneration systems in the last three years. [211216]

Malcolm Wicks: A consortium comprising of BERR, regional development agencies, non-Government organisations and elements of the microgeneration industry commissioned research to provide a robust evidence base to inform the future direction of microgeneration policy. The research investigates consumer behaviour and the impact of various policy options on demand, models future uptake of microgeneration to 2050, and considers the likely impact of targets on uptake. It is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/microgenerationresearch

This updates earlier research on the potential of microgeneration commissioned by DTI and published in 2005.

The Department has also undertaken general research in 2006, 2007 and 2008 on awareness of and attitudes to renewable energy.

Microgeneration: Theft

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department collects on the number of *(a)* solar thermal panels, *(b)* photovoltaic solar tiles and *(c)* micro-generator wind turbines stolen from households in the last 12 months; and whether anti-theft guidance is issued to householders installing micro-generation technologies. [213089]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold any information on microgeneration technologies which may have been stolen from households in the last 12 months or provide guidance on this issue.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis was for his statement in his speech to the meeting of G8 Energy Ministers in Aomori, Japan on 8 June, that the debate about the role of nuclear power in the UK has shifted in recent years and that there is now a positive recognition that nuclear power can play an important role in securing energy supplies and reducing carbon emissions. [212605]

Malcolm Wicks: The terms of the debate on energy have changed in recent years. There is growing recognition that the UK is becoming a net importer of energy as our production of oil and gas declines and that climate change requires us to find low-carbon forms of producing energy. It is also recognised that urgent action is required in both areas. Our public consultation on nuclear power found much support for our view that the evidence argues that nuclear power should be part of the solution to these challenges, although I recognise that not everybody shares this view.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to put into effect Article 8.2 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety on ensuring an effective separation between the regulators and those organisations concerned with the promotion or utilisation of nuclear energy. [213082]

Malcolm Wicks: There are governmental mechanisms in place to maintain regulatory independence. HSE is sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, which has no role in promoting nuclear technology. The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is answerable to Parliament for nuclear safety in Great Britain.

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) independence as a regulator is ensured under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, where HSE is given direct responsibility for the enforcement of the nuclear safety regulatory system. Similarly, the environment agencies are made responsible to provide the environmental protection regulatory system under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.

Oil: Storage

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* crude oil and *(b)* diesel was stored in the UK on 1 May (a) 2008, (b) 2007, (c) 2006 and (d) 2005. [213166]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: Opening stocks of *(a)* crude oil and *(b)* diesel oil stored in the UK on 1 May for the years 2005 to 2007 and on 1 April 2008 (for which latest figures are available) are shown in the following table.

Million-tonnes

	Crude oil	*Diesel oil*
1 April 2008	5.5	0.8
1 May 2007	5.8	0.7
1 May 2006	6.0	0.8
1 May 2005	5.8	0.6

Plastics: Wastes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential to convert plastic waste to fuel in the UK; whether any such projects are being supported by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [212996]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government-funded Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) has recently completed a detailed analysis of the options for dealing with waste plastic, including recycling, energy recovery as a fuel and landfill. WRAP held a dissemination event for industry on 5 June 2008. The full reports can be found at:

www.wrap.org.uk/manufacturing/projects/plastic_projects/mixed_ plastics.html

The work concluded that for the majority of plastic waste it was generally preferable to recycle the plastic into new products rather than use it to generate energy.

The small fraction of waste plastic that it is not practical to recycle provides good potential for energy-from-waste, particularly as a refuse derived fuel. Landfilling was the least favourable option.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices there were in Yeovil constituency in each year since 1980; which post offices are open in the constituency; and if he will make a statement. [212251]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment published by the United Nations Environment Programme and *(b)* the opportunities the assessment offers to British companies. [212817]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: The SWERA website at:

http://swera.unep.net/

is a very useful website that provides solar, wind and meteorological data for a number of different regions across the globe. British companies looking for investment opportunities overseas should certainly consider using sites like this one to inform their strategic decisions.

Retirement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people who would wish to continue working beyond the usual retirement age. [213591]

Mr. McFadden: In March 2006 we published the final regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations. It estimated that in the first year the legislation would lead to an increase in labour supply of 3,000 people aged 65 and over, rising to 14,000 after 10 years.

Salmon: Norway

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to support an anti-subsidy case in Europe with regard to Norway and salmon production. [212955]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: The Government will support any application for an anti-subsidy case provided that there is sufficient prima facie evidence to do so, and has said so to the Commission.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213554]

Mr. Thomas: This Department has not commissioned or funded any television programmes in the last three years or in 2008-09 to date.

Water Power

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research and development funding his Department has allocated to tidal and wave energy production since 2001; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [212414]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK has supported the challenge of developing and commercialising emerging wave and tidal-stream technologies in many ways since 2001. We currently have in place the most comprehensive package of support measures for marine energy anywhere in the world. Since 2000 over £100 million has been committed.

The package of support measures funded by BERR and DIUS includes:

£9 million for high quality basic science through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's 'Supergen Marine' consortium.

£35 million for innovative industry led technology development under the Technology Programme.

The £1.1 billion Energy Technology Institute (a public/private partnership) will boost support for R and D. Its first call for Expressions of Interest, launched in December 2007, included wave and tidal technologies.

£50 million under BERR's 'Marine Renewables Deployment Fund' to support the first larger-scale demonstration projects. Including £2 million towards the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney, which provides world leading test facilities for wave and tidal-stream technologies. And £4.5 million has been earmarked for the 'Wave Hub' project that will provide the infrastructure for the first commercial wave farms.

In addition we have also announced our intention to band the Renewables Obligation to provide additional support to foster the development of these emerging technologies. Marine technologies will receive two Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) further increasing our support.

It has been estimated that up to 20 per cent. of the UK's electricity needs could be met from clean indigenous marine energy resource. Therefore it makes sense to support research into this area of electricity generation and the above package of support demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to supporting the development of this sector as highlighted in the Energy White Paper published in May 2007.

I have had several meetings with the Wave and Tidal Industry, most recently with Pelamis Wave Power Ltd in early June and my officials are in regular contact with the BWEA Marine Strategy Group and the Wave Energy Technology Developers' Forum.

Wind Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has received representations on the effects of wind farms on *(a)* the identification of aircraft on radar screens, *(b)* low-flying training and *(c)* seismic activity detection. [208505]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR Ministers and officials conduct regular discussions with wind industry representatives and counterparts in MOD, DFT, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and National Air Traffic Services (NATS) on radar and operations issues, and in particular identification issues.

In addition, BERR chairs and facilitates an Aviation Strategy Group where military and civilian aviation officials and representatives of the wind industry are represented and are consulted on outstanding and future concerns.

Related to the Prime Minister's commitment last year to find technical solutions to reduce aviation and radar objections around wind farms, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on this issue was also recently announced on 13 June. The MOU is a high level agreement between Government (including BERR, DFT and MOD) and industry that aims to deploy the renewable power the UK requires while also ensuring we maintain both a safe airspace and national security.

The MOU and its associated workstreams (linked together in an Aviation Plan) will focus on several areas, including the exploration of innovative technological solutions focused on air defence and air traffic radar, and all parties have signed up to commit to find a solution to this issue.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for wind farms have been *(a)* received, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* rejected in (i) the UK and (ii) Yorkshire and Humberside area in each year since 2001. [213316]

Malcolm Wicks: The following tables set out the numbers of applications for onshore wind farms received, consented and rejected in the UK and the Yorkshire and Humberside area in each year since 2001. This includes applications under both Section 36 of the Electricity Act and the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA).

It should be noted that an application consented or rejected in a specific year may have been received in a previous year.

Applications received

	Number of applications		Megawatts	
	UK	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]	*UK*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]
2001	38	0	675.6	0.0
2002	61	0	1,295.5	0.0
2003	78	2	1,800.9	133.0
2004	93	7	4,461.7	106.4
2005	103	4	2,806.4	74.0
2006	108	6	2,252.6	77.0
2007	73	7	1,647.2	99.6
2008	9	0	208.8	0.0

[1] There were six applications with no submission dates—these are not included in the table.

Applications consented

	Number of applications		Megawatts	
	UK	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]	*UK*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]
2001	17	0	206.0	0.0
2002	26	0	278.8	0.0
2003	28	0	572.4	0.0
2004	42	2	661.4	10.4
2005	47	3	940.9	0.1
2006	40	5	798.6	55.3
2007	46	5	871.1	45.9
2008	11	3	498.1	157.0

[1] There were three applications with no consented dates—these are not included in the table.

Applications rejected

	Number of applications		Megawatts	
	UK	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]	*UK*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*[1]
2001	11	0	45.3	0.0
2002	13	0	179.0	0.0
2003	12	0	138.4	0.0
2004	12	0	143.6	0.0
2005	18	0	365.6	0.0
2006	15	0	410.2	0.0
2007	23	2	430.0	44.0
2008	7	1	792.0	[2]

[1] There were three applications with no rejection dates—these are not included in the table.

[2] Figure not available.

Wind Power: Radar

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account his Department is taking of the effect of new wind farms on the UK's radar surveillance capability. [208498]

Malcolm Wicks: This is an issue the Department takes into account in both policy making and in its role as a consenting authority.

The CLG's Planning Policy Statement (PPS22) on renewable energy includes aviation impacts as an area to be considered in renewable energy consent decisions by this Department and also by local planning authorities. Similar guidance is in place in Scotland and Wales.

All objections, on aviation radar or other issues, are considered in the process of determining applications. The effect of wind turbines on radar is also one impact being considered under the Strategic Environmental Assessment on offshore wind announced last December. http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/

In addition, a number of further activities to increase understanding of the impact of wind farms and to develop technical solutions have been and continue to be undertaken by the Department directly, or are coordinated by the Department.

For example, following on from the Prime Minister's commitment last year to find technical solutions to reduce aviation and radar objections around wind farms, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on this was announced on 13 June. This is a high level agreement between Government (including BERR, DFT and MoD) and industry that aims to deploy the renewable power we require while ensuring we maintain both a safe airspace and national security.

The MoU and its associated workstreams (laid out in an Aviation Plan) will focus on several strands, including the exploration of innovative technological solutions focused on Air Defence and Air Traffic radar, and all parties have signed up to commit to find a solution to this issue.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of testing UK radar systems for the impact on them of offshore wind turbines was in each year since 2001. [208506]

Malcolm Wicks: The testing of UK radar systems does not fall within BERR's remit. The Department does not hold data on the cost on testing UK radar systems by other organisations.

A great deal of work has followed on from the Prime Minister's commitment last year to find technical solutions to reduce aviation and radar objections around wind farms, and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was announced on 13 June, covering a high level agreement between Government (including BERR, DFT and MOD) and industry that aims to deploy the renewable power we require while ensuring we maintain both a safe airspace and national security.

The MOU and its associated workstreams (laid out in an Aviation Plan) will focus on several strands, including the exploration of innovative technological solutions to air traffic radar and air defence radar issues, as well as radar absorbent wind turbine technology, and all parties have signed up to commit to find a solution to this issue.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding is being provided to assess the effect of offshore wind farms on radar systems in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [208507]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has in the past funded and will continue to fund projects to develop and trial technical solutions to address this issue. Projects are funded on an individual basis according to a business case being satisfied. The Department does not hold figures on funding from other organisations.

In addition, following on from the Prime Minister's commitment last year to find technical solutions to reduce aviation and radar objections around wind farms, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on this issue was recently announced on 13 June. The MOU is a high level agreement between Government (including BERR, DFT and MOD) and industry that aims to deploy the renewable power the UK requires while also ensuring we maintain both a safe airspace and national security. The MOU and its associated workstreams (linked together in an Aviation Plan) will focus on several areas, including the exploration of innovative technological solutions focused on air defence and air traffic radar, and all parties have signed up to commit to find a solution to this issue.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to measure *(a)* the total greenhouse gas emissions and *(b)* the monetary costs arising from those emissions from inbound international flights to the UK. [209665]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no internationally agreed way to allocate to individual countries the CO_2 emissions from international flights. For CO_2 emissions reporting purposes, the UN framework convention on climate change requires each nation to report emissions based on aviation bunker fuel consumption, which is closely related to fuel used on departing flights.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory reports annual CO_2 emissions for domestic and international aviation for the UK on this basis. The Department for Transport has no plans to measure emissions from inbound international flights to the UK, nor their monetary costs.

Aviation: Luggage

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which airports have applied to her Department for permission to relax the one bag rule since 7 January 2008; and which airports have had that permission granted. [212861]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: The following airports have applied for permission to remove the one bag restriction—Aberdeen, Belfast International, Benbecula, Biggin Hill, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Blackpool, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, City of Derry, Coventry, Dundee, Durham Tees Valley, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Exeter, Farnborough, Filton, Gatwick, George Best Belfast City, Glasgow, Gloucestershire, Guernsey, Hawarden, Heathrow, Humberside, Inverness, Islay, Isle of Man, Jersey, Kent International, Kirkwall, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool John Lennon, London City, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle, Newquay Cornwall, Norwich, Plymouth, Prestwick, Robin Hood, Southampton, Southend, Stansted, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree, Warton and Wick. Applications from two airports, Liverpool John Lennon and Luton, are still under consideration.

Biofuels

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W, on biofuels, when the Renewable Fuels Agency will be reporting on the adequacy of information contained in the sustainability reports submitted by the 16 June deadline. [213582]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) is currently considering its reporting strategy, including the content and timing of reports, in liaison with stakeholders. The RFA has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (SI 3072) to report annually to Parliament on this and other matters. In addition, the Secretary of State for Transport has asked for quarterly reports from the RFA on the sustainability of the biofuels used under the RTFO. The first of these quarterly reports is due to be submitted in the early autumn.

Cycling: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which London boroughs operate a cycle to work scheme. [213804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not collect this information centrally. Neither local authorities, nor private industry companies are required to register their cycle to work scheme with this Department.

I understand from Transport for London that 15 of the 33 London councils promote the cycle to work scheme as a measure within their travel plans.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value of the property held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212882]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The net book value of property held by the Department and its associated bodies is provided in the following table:

	Total (£000)	*Date*
(a)		
Department for Transport, comprising the following organisational units[1]:	£2,209,180	31 March 2007
Central Department		
Executive Agency		
Highways Agency		
Maritime and Coastguard Agency		
Government Car and Despatch Agency		
Vehicle Certification Agency		
Advisory Bodies		
Commission for Integrated Transport		
Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee		
Tribunals		
Traffic Commissioners and Licensing Authorities (Traffic Areas)		
Driving Standards Agency	£29,231	31 March 2007
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	£15,137	31 March 2007
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	£92,788	31 March 2007
(b)		
British Transport Police Authority	£9,152	31 March 2006
Northern Lighthouse Board	£17,159	31 March 2007
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	£15,900	31 March 2007
Passenger Focus	£219	31 March 2007

---

[1] Not possible to disaggregate costs within the disproportionate cost limits.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by her Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if she will make a statement. [213704]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides details of the new build projects and major refurbishments undertaken by the Department for Transport over the last three years.

	Build projects	*BREEAM rating*	*Major refurbishments*	*BREEAM rating*
2005-06	1	1 x very good	0	n/a
2006-07	9	8 x excellent 1 x very good	1	1 x excellent
2007-08	9	8 x excellent 1 x very good	1	1 x excellent

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by her Department and its predecessor in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213757]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides details of the new build projects and major refurbishments undertaken by the Department for Transport over the last three years.

	Build projects	*Major refurbishments*
2005-06	10	6
2006-07	10	5
2007-08	11	2

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expert groups her Department set up in each year since 1999. [213276]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what independent inquiries have been commissioned by her Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212317]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not commissioned any independent inquiries in the last five years.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many jobs her Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213407]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 2004 spending review set the Department for Transport the target of relocating 60 posts by the end of March 2010. As at the present date, 62 relocations have taken place, meaning that our target has been met almost two years ahead of schedule.

The Department continues to look for further relocation opportunities, for example, through departmental reorganisation and review of estates requirements, and we expect to identify further posts suitable for relocation.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much sick pay to staff in her Department cost in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [212071]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table summarises responses from the Central Department, the Driving Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Highways Agency.

Calendar year	*Total cost of sickness absence (£)*
2003	8,467,050
2004	8,624,478
2005	9,271,851
2006	9,361,412
2007	10,131,188

The increase since 2005 is in the context of the investment in 1,800 new Traffic Officers by the Highways Agency, as well as various other staff increases across the Department.

The Driving Standards Agency can only provide the last three years data. Previous years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DSA

Calendar year	*Total cost of sickness absence (£)*
2005	2,768,254.00
2006	3,171,791.00
2007	2,775,510.00

The cost has been calculated as total days paid absence x average salary cost (£20,000)/working days in year 220.5.

MCA, VCA, VOSA and GCDA could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: EC Action

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on drivers' hours (derogation for reservists), whether the Minister has received a response from the European Commission to the request for a derogation from regulation (EC) 561/2006; and if she will make a statement. [215018]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Dialogue with the European Commission officials dealing with our request is continuing. I will inform the House when the Commission makes a final decision.

East Coast Main Line

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the Public Performance Measure Moving Annual Average statistics for the National Express East Coast services for each month since it took over the East Coast Main Line franchise. [214565]

Mr. Tom Harris: The figures are as follows:

Period	*Percentage* *Moving annual average*
0810	82.4
0811	82.4
0812	82.6
0813	82.6
0901	82.5
0902	83.0

Electrification: Costs

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost per mile of electrifying the rail network. [214032]

Mr. Tom Harris: The cost of electrifying the railway network is currently estimated at around £800,000 per single track mile (£500,000 per single track kilometre) dependant on the complexity and constraints of the particular line.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 95W, on Great Western Trains, when the amended franchise agreements will be published. [209286]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is now available from the Department for Transport's Public Register, the statutory commercial redactions now having been made and will be on the Department for Transport's website in due course.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timescale is for First Great Western to work through its notice to improve; and whether the criteria for improvement include the number of journeys where trains have been replaced by bus or taxi. [213898]

Mr. Tom Harris: The timescale for First Great Western improvement is set out in the remedial agreement, which now forms part of the First Great Western franchise agreement. This is available from the Department for Transport's Public Register and will also be available on the Department for Transport's website in due course.

The criteria do not include the number of journeys where trains have been replaced by bus or taxi.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on Heathrow Airport: noise, what estimates her Department has made of the proportion of current aircraft which will have been replaced by the Boeing 767 and Airbus A300/310 and A340 by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020 and *(d)* 2025; and on what information her estimates are based. [210601]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As explained in the supporting technical reports to the recent Heathrow consultation, the aircraft types mentioned are expected to be superseded by a new generation of aircraft, some of which are due to enter service imminently. Table 2.3 of the ERCD Report 0705 (Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow) as follows shows how this is reflected in the composition of the Heathrow fleet, by aircraft type, over the period to 2030.

Table 2.3: 16-hour average summer day air traffic forecasts for each scenario

Seat Cat.	*Aircraft type*	*2006*	*SM 2015*	*SM 2030*	*MM 2015*	*MM 2030*	*R3 2020*	*R3 2030*
1	Bombardier Regional Jet	5.4	0.7	0	2.3	0	0	0
1	Business Jet (Ch. 3)	5.3	2.7	2.7	4	2	4	4
1	Embraer EMB 135/145/170	17	0.7	0	2.3	0	0	0
1	Small/Large Props	8.4	0.5	0.5	0	0.4	1	0
Subtotal		36.1	4.6	3.2	8.6	2.4	5	4
2	Airbus A318	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Airbus A319/320/321	647.3	682.7	122.3	821	159.6	656	28
2	BAe 146	3.4	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2.3: 16-hour average summer day air traffic forecasts for each scenario

Seat Cat.	*Aircraft type*	*2006*	*SM 2015*	*SM 2030*	*MM 2015*	*MM 2030*	*R3 2020*	*R3 2030*
2	Boeing 737	66.2	44.4	0	57	2.5	6	19
2	Embraer 190	0	0.7	0	2.3	0	0	0
2	Fokker 100	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Boeing MD80	29.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Next Generation – 120/150 seat	0	0	89.4	0	224	148	396
Subtotal		752.4	727.8	211.7	880.3	386.1	810	443
3	Airbus A300	12.8	0	0	6	0	0	0
3	Airbus A310	5.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Boeing 757-200/300	56.4	7	0	2	0	2	0
3	Boeing 767-200/300	62.3	6.6	0	2	0	0	0
3	Boeing MD90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Next Generation - 180 seat	0	0	211.7	0	184.2	103	507
3	Next Generation - 220 seat	0	1.8	230.6	14	325.9	372	330
Subtotal		137.4	15.4	442.3	24	510.1	477	837
4	Airbus A330-200/300	34.1	46.5	0.1	45	1.2	6	0
4	Airbus A340-200/300	35.3	7.5	0	6	0	2	0
4	Boeing 777-200	105.2	87.7	0.1	161	8.8	39	6
4	Next Generation – 250/300 Seat	0	45.6	244.6	66	183.7	190	252
4	Boeing MD11	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Others	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		176.1	187.3	244.8	278	193.7	237	258
5	Airbus A340-500/600	21.2	56.7	5.3	39	0	20	0
5	Boeing 747-100/200/300/SP	5.4	0	0	2	0	0	0
5	Boeing 747-400	110.6	72.7	0	62	0	4	0
5	Boeing 747-8	0	4.2	8.6	5	81	119	11
5	Boeing 777-300	8.7	133.3	93.1	106	102	148	138
5	Next Generation - 450 seat	0	0	121.6	0	55.4	0	119
Subtotal		145.9	266.9	228.6	214	238.4	291	268
6	Airbus A380-800	0	74.8	146.1	46	123.2	91	98
Subtotal		0	74.8	146.1	46	123.2	91	98
Total		1248	1277	1277	1451	1454	1911	1908

SM—Segregated-mode use of existing runways
MM—Mixed-mode use of existing runways
R3—Third runway operated in mixed-mode, main runways operated in segregated mode

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* BA and *(b)* BAA on security breaches at Heathrow Terminal 5 since the terminal opened to the public. [209266]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department investigates alleged security breaches at UK airports. Our inspectors work closely with all parties involved to ensure that robust action plans are developed where appropriate and we monitor implementation of these measures.

Heysham-M6 Link Scheme

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions her Department has had with Lancashire County Council on the park and ride measures in the Heysham-M6 link scheme; [214603]

(2) if she will allocate funding to congestion relief measures in *(a)* Lancaster and *(b)* Morecambe if funding for the Heysham-M6 link road is approved; [214604]

(3) what assessment she has made of the contribution of park and ride schemes to the Heysham-M6 link scheme. [214605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is currently in discussion with Lancashire county council on this scheme and expects to agree its approach to funding and appraisal, including of the park and ride element, shortly. No formal value for money assessment has been concluded to date.

It is for Lancashire county council to decide what if any additional measures should be taken forward beyond what is in their bid to the Department. The Department already provides significant funding to Lancashire—£28.1 million for the current financial year—through the LTP block funding allocations which could be used to fund any further complementary congestion relief measures.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on work relating to the proposed Heysham-M6 link road since 1997. [209278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to quantify the Department's expenditure on the assessment of individual schemes. DFT officials are examining the major scheme business case submitted by Lancashire county council in accordance with existing guidance for local major transport schemes. As part of this work, the Department commissioned a specific independent review of the business case at a cost of £18,822. Due to the effects of the scheme on the strategic road network, the Highways Agency also spent approximately £16,500 on their review of assessment work submitted by Lancashire county council as part of their planning application.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* environmental groups, *(b)* Lancashire County Council and *(c)* hon. Members representing local constituencies on the proposals for an M6-Heysham link road. [209326]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has not held any meetings with the aforementioned groups on proposals for an M6-Heysham link road.

High Speed Trains: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department had spent on consultancy fees on the Intercity Express programme at the latest date for which figures are available. [212609]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has spent £9.4 million since the start of this project in 2005.

Highways Agency: Appeals

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methods of redress are available to members of the public who wish to challenge decisions taken by the Highways Agency. [209055]

Mr. Tom Harris: The methods of redress will depend on the nature of any decision and the means by which that decision is challenged.

Members of the public may, for example, seek to challenge decisions taken by the Highways Agency through statutory rights of appeal, judicial review, complaints to the Office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and also the Agency's formal complaints procedure.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for judicial review were made in relation to the Highways Agency in each of the last 10 years. [209059]

Mr. Tom Harris: A comprehensive list is not available, but of the three cases identifiable in the last 10 years the most recent case was in 2007 and concerns the closure of a gap in the central reservation on the A30 west of Exeter at Fingle Glen.

Lorries: Accidents

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving foreign-registered lorries there were in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [213940]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2007, the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving foreign registered heavy goods vehicles in Great Britain was 919. Details on damage only accidents are not collected by the Department for Transport.

Lorries: Fuels

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department supports training for the HGV industry on the efficient use of fuel. [213943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under our Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) programme some 12,000 HGV drivers have been trained via demonstration programmes with funding from the Department for Transport and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs since 2003. Further SAFED training is being supported with Government funding up to 2010 to encourage transition to fully commercial delivery of SAFED by the trainers.

The Department funds the Freight Best Practice programme which provides free guides, case studies and software to help the freight industry further improve fuel efficiency and operational efficiency. The programme includes material for Developing Skills, with guides and case studies for SAFED, plus films and pocket guides for fuel efficiency. Over 2005 and 2006 the industry achieved savings of 240,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide directly attributed to use of the programme.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will reduce the period within which a vehicle registered overseas and brought to Great Britain must be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [213947]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Different orders and EC directives mean that the UK Government cannot define the period during which a foreign registered vehicle is exempt from the requirement to be registered and licensed with DVLA. However, the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975 states that a vehicle which is properly registered and licensed in its home country may be used by the visitor for up to six months in a 12-month period without the need to register and licence in the host country.

Motorway Service Areas: Cash Dispensing

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides to motorway service area (MSA) operators on the provision of automated teller machines which do not charge for cash withdrawals; if she will hold discussions with MSA operators to seek an increase in the number of free-of-charge machines at MSAs; and if she will make a statement. [214210]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not require operators to provide cash machines at motorway service areas. Service areas are private operations and the decision as to whether to provide cash machines lies with the site operator. Department officials meet regularly with service area operators. I will ask them to raise the matter in the course of those discussions to encourage the provision of more free-of-charge machines.

Motorway Service Areas: Food

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department provides on the provision of hot food and drink at motorway service areas (MSAs); whether MSA operators are required to provide hot food and drink for 24 hours a day; and what guidance her Department provides to operators on prices of food and drinks at MSAs. [214208]

Mr. Tom Harris: Government policy on the provision of motorway service areas is contained within Department for Transport Circular 01/2008. This circular requires motorway service area operators to provide hot drinks 24 hours a day for every day of the year. Hot food must be available between the hours of 6am and 10pm every day of the year.

As motorway service areas are privately operated the Government do not provide guidance to operators on the prices of food and drinks at service areas.

Network Rail: Litter

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent by Network Rail on litter collection from land for which it is the responsible authority in each year since 2002; [213903]

(2) whether her Department monitors Network Rail's performance in fulfilling its duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to remove litter from the railway network; and if she will make a statement; [213904]

(3) how many cases Network Rail have brought to a magistrates court under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 on litter and fly-tipping in each year since 2002. [213905]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. Network Rail is a private sector company limited by guarantee. It has its own operational policies on litter and fly-tipping clearance, consistent with current legislation—the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. It operates under a network licence enforced and amended by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Licence condition 8 requires Network Rail to establish and review a written policy—its annual Safety and Environment Plan—to protect the environment from the effect of its licensed activities.

Each plan sets out how Network Rail intends to continue its systematic improvement of the control of key risks and compliance with new legislation to improve the safety, health and environment delivery performance of the national network.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for additional information in response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London, NW1 2EE.

Official Cars

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total cost of providing cars and drivers for Ministers was in each year since 1997, broken down by Department; [212895]

(2) how many cars were available for use by Ministers in each year since 1997; and how many were used by each Department in each such year. [212896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial transport in line with the Ministerial Code.

The following tables show the number of ministerial cars provided to each Department since 2000-01 together with the annual contracted costs. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Information on numbers and costs for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were given in a written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 109-11WS.

	2000-01		*2001-02*		*Post General Election 2001*		*2002-03*	
Department	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*	*Number of cars*	*Annual contracted value (£)*
Cabinet Office[1]	12	722,200	13	813,000	13	816,700	8	440,800
ODPM[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	333,600
DCMS	4	214,800	4	222,000	4	222,400	4	230,500
DETR[2]	8	402,700	9	464,200	—	—	—	—
DfEE/DfES[4]	8	400,000	8	412,600	7	351,200	6	317,000
DFID	2	94,500	2	96,800	1	50,000	2	92,200
DSS[2]	5	246,100	5	253,400	—	—	—	—
DTI	6	289,000	6	313,900	6	313,900	6	321,700
FCO	5	256,500	5	263,800	6	315,800	5	258,000
Department of Health	6	307,200	6	316,600	7	369,500	6	325,500

Department	2000-01 Number of cars	2000-01 Annual contracted value (£)	2001-02 Number of cars	2001-02 Annual contracted value (£)	Post General Election 2001 Number of cars	Post General Election 2001 Annual contracted value (£)	2002-03 Number of cars	2002-03 Annual contracted value (£)
HM Treasury	5	263,900	5	271,200	5	271,500	5	285,800
Home Office	5	243,000	4	208,800	6	332,400	7	399,900
Lord Chancellor's Department[4]	3	165,800	3	170,400	4	223,600	4	233,200
Law Officers	1	49,900	1	51,300	2	103,700	2	105,500
MAFF[2]	4	210,700	4	218,200				
MOD[3]	1	53,000	1	54,500	1	54,500	1	63,000
Northern Ireland Office	3	239,800	3	247,300	3	247,300	4	205,100
Privy Council Office	3	170,900	2	113,800	2	113,800	2	120,800
Scotland Office	2	96,500	2	100,800	2	98,400	2	100,400
Wales Office	2	121,100	2	122,900	2	122,900	2	127,200
DEFRA[2]	—	—	—	—	5	268,000	5	285,900
DTLR/DfT[2,4]	—	—	—	—	7	373,500	3	173,700
DWP[2]					6	315,900	6	328,600
Total	85	4,547,600	85	4,715,500	89	4,965,000	86	4,748,400

[1] The Cabinet Office figures include cars for the Prime Minster's Office, the Government Chief Whip and the Minister without Portfolio.
[2] DETR, DSS, and MAFF were reorganised after the 2001 General Election.
[3] GCS provided a car and driver to the Secretary of State for Defence only until 2003. Since then no cars or drivers have been provided to the MOD.
[4] Takes into account Machinery of Government changes.

Department	2003-04 Number of cars	2003-04 Annual contracted value (£)	2004-05 Number of cars	2004-05 Annual contracted value (£)	2005-06 Number of cars	2005-06 Annual contracted value (£)	2006-07 Number of cars	2006-07 Annual contracted value (£)
Cabinet Office[1]	8	472,100	8	487,400	10	626,300	8	531,700
ODPM/DCLG[3]	6	321,800	6	366,800	6	392,400	6	393,900
DCMS	4	235,600	4	255,000	4	275,300	4	279,600
DfEE/DfES	7	384,900	7	399,200	7	457,400	7	464,900
DFID	2	107,600	2	119,800	2	130,400	2	132,200
DTI	5	275,500	5	286,300	6	325,500	6	325,500
FCO[2]	4	214,500	4	231,700	5	298,100	5	324,500
Department of Health	6	425,200	6	382,200	6	380,600	6	387,100
HM Treasury	5	295,400	5	303,300	5	342,500	5	346,700
Home Office	7	408,900	7	386,900	7	478,100	7	487,500
DCA	4	230,400	4	248,300	5	319,900	5	339,000
Law Officers	2	106,400	2	113,100	2	132,100	2	133,900
Northern Ireland Office[4]	5	362,600	5	373,700	5	438,400	5	434,400
Privy Council Office	1	56,000	3	195,400	3	142,200	3	204,100
Scotland Office[5,6]	1	49,200	1	56,700	1	61,100	1	62,200
Wales Office[4]	2	130,100	1	66,400	1	74,700	1	74,600
DEFRA	5	286,000	5	294,700	5	324,200	5	323,300
DTLR/DfT[5]	4	232,600	4	239,200	4	261,900	4	263,300
DWP	6	339,400	6	357,500	6	406,400	5	407,800
Total	84	4,934,200	85	5,163,600	90	5,867,500	87	5,916,200

[1] Cabinet figures include cars for Ministers in the Cabinet Office, the Prime Minister's Office, the Chief Whip in the House of Commons, the Minister without Portfolio and the Deputy Prime Minister (since May 2006).
[2] The Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs was a post held jointly between the FCO and the DTI. THE GCS costs were met by the FCO.
[3] Machinery of Government changes in May 2006 created the DCLG and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office from the DPO.
[4] The right hon. Peter Hain MP was both Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales. GCS costs were met by the NIO.
[5] The right hon. Douglas Alexander MP was both Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland. GCS costs were met by DfT.
[6] The GCS car and driver provided to the Scotland Office was shared by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and the Advocate General.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is taken of levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the manufacture and importation of cars in deciding which cars are available for Ministers to use. [214013]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: No account is taken of the manufacturing process when purchasing vehicles. There is no requirement for car manufacturers to state the overall environmental impact of the manufacturing process. However, the Government

Car and Despatch Agency is set targets by Ministers to reduce tailpipe emissions and use alternative engine and fuel technologies in its fleet.

Parking

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the capacity is of car parking facilities at each building operated by her Department and its agencies. [209052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Data for the Driving Standards Agency and a listing by building for the regional sites operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plan to take to encourage railway companies to make fares more affordable to pensioners. [214405]

Mr. Tom Harris: Older people are already entitled to discounted travel on the national rail network through the Senior Railcard which is available for £24 per year, and gives around one-third off most rail fares. The scheme is run by the Association of Train Operating Companies and all train operators are required by the Department for Transport to participate.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to promote the interests of railway customers. [214404]

Mr. Tom Harris: Last year we committed £10 billion to deliver the biggest single increase in rail capacity for a generation. This includes the delivery of 1,300 extra train carriages to run longer trains.

As we undertook in last year's rail White Paper, a new system of simplified fares was announced in April this year.

We have also asked Passenger Focus to assess how well the current system of fares and ticketing meets passengers' expectations so that we can consider the options for further improvement.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to hold the railway industry to account for major disruptions in service to customers. [214406]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation who take enforcement action in the event of the company breaching its network licence.

The Department for Transport monitors the performance of passenger train operating companies, and takes action in the event of a contravention of the franchise agreement.

Railways: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to improve railway services in the West Midlands. [214403]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following improvements are planned for the West Midlands:

more and faster long-distance trains on the West Coast Main Line;

increased capacity on Cross-country trains;

new trains on West Midlands suburban services;

increased capacity on Birmingham suburban services;

re-construction of Birmingham New Street station, and improvements to other West Midlands stations; and

expected extension of the Birmingham Cross-city route to Bromsgrove.

Roads

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many A roads have been passed from local authority to Highways Agency control in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [213962]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: Since June 2003, two long sections of road were transferred from the local authority to Highways Agency control: the A2070 between Brenzett and junction 10 of the M20 in September 2003 and the A120 between Stansted and Marks Tey in Essex in March 2005.

The "New Deal for Trunk Roads in England", published in 1998, proposed de-trunking the A259 between Brenzett and Folkestone and trunking the A2070 from Brenzett to the M20 as an alternative strategic route.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the likely effects on the incidence of death and serious injury on the roads of altering the operation of Greenwich Mean Time and British Summer Time. [214087]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A Government commissioned report by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) published in October 1998 concluded that, if the UK adopted single/double summertime (i.e. GMT plus one hour in the winter, from October to March, and GMT plus two hours in the summer, from March to October) thereby making the evenings lighter, there could be a reduction in road casualties of over 400 people killed or seriously injured per year in Great Britain, including 100 deaths.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of road traffic accidents which took place in the week commencing *(a)* 24 March and *(b)* 31 March 2008. [214449]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. The road accident data for year 2008 will be available in June 2009.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects repair work on the A673 at Heath Charnock to be completed; and when she expects the road to be re-opened. [214218]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: I understand from Lancashire county council that a contractor started on site on 23 of June and that they expect works to be complete for re-opening on 1 July 2008.

Speed Limits: Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures there are for schools to apply for a 20 mph limit on the roads around their locations. [213897]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits. This includes 20 mph limits, which local traffic authorities have had powers to set since 1999. If a school board considers a 20 mph speed limit would be appropriate outside their school, they should contact their local authority who will then consider the request.

The Department for Transport encourages and supports local authorities wishing to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones on their roads, particularly on roads around schools. We provide guidance to them on setting local speed limits and on a wide range of traffic calming measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds in a variety of circumstances.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date she expects the first new rolling stock for the Thameslink programme to come into use. [213001]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Thameslink Programme is planning to commence some 12 car operations on existing routes from December 2011 using existing rolling stock within the national fleet. It is currently planned that new Thameslink rolling stock will commence introduction into service from early 2012.

Transport: Competition

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to promote competition in the transport industry. [214402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has a procurement directorate who manage the Department's procurement procedures including the award of contracts. The Department's procurement procedures are designed to align with EU treaty requirements, procurement legislation and Treasury regulations. Full details of the procedures are published on the DFT website under "Procurement".

Transport: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* road haulage firms and *(b)* other transport companies of the recent rise in fuel costs. [212662]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Government recognise the impact that oil prices are having on motorists at the moment, including road haulage and transport companies, as well as families.

In response, the Chancellor is working with G7/8 and G20 partners to improve the functioning of international oil market by enhancing market transparency, improving global energy efficiency and addressing barriers to investment in new supply. The Chancellor also announced that the planned 2p per litre fuel duty increase scheduled for 1 April would be deferred to 1 October.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Grants

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1142W, on Electoral Commission: grants, what steps the Commission is taking to monitor the expenditure by these organisations to ensure that section 1.3 of the terms and conditions is not breached. [215686]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that every organisation that receives a grant is required to submit quarterly and annual reports on its project's progress. No money is paid until these reports have been checked to ensure that funded activities are within the scope of the project.

In addition, Commission staff regularly attend project workshops and events to ensure they are being delivered as specified. Each project is also subject to a formal monitoring visit every year to ensure it is complying with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication the Electoral Commission subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215670]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not subscribe to the *Morning Star*.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212874]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for the last four years at project level is provided in the following table. Information at project level for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Summary information on my Department's spending on additions to fixed assets from 1999-2000 onwards is available in the published resource accounts. No expenditure has been incurred on new capital investment in property over the past four years.

DCMS refurbishment projects

£000

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(b) Refurbishment projects				
Refurbishment of DCMS Headquarters, Cockspur St	—	441	6,985	1,252
Renewal of chillers and air handling plant		—	599	298
Other Leasehold Improvements		10	9	
Fusiliers building (Tower of London)	—			600
Total	—	451	7,593	2,150

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211692]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport hosted the following conferences in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. Costs quoted are excluding VAT.

	£
2006-07	
2012 Delivering for the UK (Olympic Regional Business Summit)	102,391
International Summit on Remote Gambling	49,291
2007-08	
DCMS Audit Committee Conference	6,382

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213296]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of staff awarded bonuses	169	215	172	240	265
Proportion of workforce (percentage)	36.7	42.5	33.7	47.0	51.4
Total cost of bonuses	106,128	206,643	215,285	293,241	413,160
Largest single bonus	3,500	5,000	7,000	6,000	10,000

The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: *(a)* special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and *(b)* performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. The performance bonuses for 2007-08 have not been paid yet.

English Sports Council: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports were funded by Sport England's World Class funding programme in each year since 1999. [213787]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England funded the following number of sports from its World Class funding programme:

1999-2000: 17

In addition, an award was also made to the British Paralympic Association to support various disability sports. An award was also made to UK Sport to support the Athlete Lifestyle Services programme across a number of different sports.

2000-01: 29

In addition, two awards were also made to UK Sport to support the Athlete Lifestyle Services programme across a number of different sports.

2001-02: 28

In addition, two awards were also made to UK Sport to support the Athlete Lifestyle Services programme across a number of different sports.

2002-03: 25

2003-04: 24

In addition, an award was made to UK Sport to support the Athlete Lifestyle Services programme across a number of different sports.

2004-05: 21

In addition, an award was made to UK Sport to support the Athlete Lifestyle Services programme across a number of different sports.

2005-06: 9

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by Sport England through their World Class revenue programmes in each year since 1999. [213788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England spent the following amounts through their World Class revenue programmes in each year since 1999:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
1999-2000	12,983,763
2000-01	120,599,171
2001-02	83,893,415
2002-03	71,915,401
2003-04	29,742,740
2004-05	11,557,543
2005-06	521,492
Total	331,213,525

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by Sport England on sports ground safety through the Football Trust and Sports Ground Initiative since 1999. [213793]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total expenditure for sports ground safety through the Football Trust and Sports Ground Initiative since 1999 is £6,767,549.

English Sports Council: Football

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Sport England via the Football Youth Development programme in each year since 1999. [213789]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has spent via the Football Youth Development programme in each year since 1999:

	£ million
1998-99	5
1999-2000	5
2000-01	5
2001-02	5
2002-03	2.5
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.5
2005-06	2.5

Historic Buildings: Theft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of carved stones and ornamental objects stolen from the grounds of *(a)* ruined abbeys and church buildings and *(b)* castles and monuments in the care of English Heritage in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [213036]

Margaret Hodge: According to English Heritage, there has been only one instance of carved stones or ornamental objects stolen from the grounds of ruined abbeys, church buildings, castles or monuments in its care since January 2004. Information on years before that date is not available.

Public Holidays

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on establishing St. George's Day as a bank holiday. [212162]

Margaret Hodge: None. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible for bank holidays and there are currently no plans to change the present well-established and accepted pattern of bank holidays in this country.

Sport Action Zones

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment Sport England has made of sport action zones; and what reports have been commissioned on their operation. [213785]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England commissioned Ipsos Mori to carry out a study of four of the Sport Action Zones (SAZ) between October 2005 and January 2006, comparing baseline data collected in 2001-02 on levels of participation in sport and attitudes towards sports provision among residents.

In addition to Ipsos Mori's study, Sport England's Policy Team produced a detailed summary report on the lessons learnt from the SAZ, Active Communities Development Fund and Active Communities Manager's Projects in 2007. This report is titled "Impact in 3D".

Both reports will be placed in the House Libraries shortly.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to how many new or enhanced facilities requiring funding over £100,000 Sport England allocated funding through their Community Projects Capital Fund in each year since 1999; and how many of these facilities were based on education sites. [212985]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of new or enhanced facilities requiring funding over £100,000 which have been funded through the Sport England Community Projects Capital Fund in each year since 1999, as provided by Sport England, are tabled as follows:

		Number
Financial Year	*New or enhanced facilities funded through the Sport England Community Projects Capital Fund*	*Facilities based on sites of educational organisations*
1999-2000	135	20
2000-01	133	23
2001-02	154	19
2002-03	134	26
2003-04	76	12
2004-05	32	4
2005-06	9	2
2006-07	8	Not available

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to how many new or enhanced facilities requiring funding under £100,000 Sport England allocated funding through their Community Projects Capital Fund in each year since 1999; and how many of these facilities were deemed to have significantly benefited people from ethnic minority communities in each year. [212986]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of new or enhanced facilities requiring funding under £100,000 and which have been allocated funding through the Sport England Community Projects Capital Fund, as provided by Sport England, in each year since 1999 are tabled as follows:

New or enhanced facilities requiring funding under £100,000, which have been funded through the Sport England Community Projects Capital Fund

Financial Year	*Number*
1999-2000	190
2000-01	104
2001-02	90
2002-03	118
2003-04	21
2004-05	16
2005-06	4
2006-07	1

Information is not available about how many of these facilities are deemed to have significantly benefited people from ethnic minorities in each year. However, Sport England remains committed to working with funding partners to increase participation amongst all groups, including ethnic minorities.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many small awards Sport England made in each year since 1999. [212997]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of small awards made by Sport England in each year since 1999, as provided by Sport England, is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of small awards[1] made by Sport England*
1999-2000	208
2000-01	119
2001-02	165
2002-03	130
2003-04	81
2004-05	154
2005-06	315
2006-07	164

[1] For the purpose of this response, the definition of small awards is up to £10,000. These figures include Lottery and Exchequer funding.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Sport England's funding has been spent on the Community Projects Fund since 1999. [213000]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The proportion of Sports England's funding which has been spent on the Community Projects Fund since 1999, as provided by Sport England, is as follows:

Financial Year	*Proportion of funding spent on the Community Projects Fund (percentage)*
1998-99	95
1999-2000	89
2000-01	51
2001-02	72
2002-03	60
2003-04	63
2004-05	71
2005-06	39
2006-07	26
2007-08	81

Strip Clubs

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to assist local authorities to *(a)* regulate lap dancing clubs and *(b)* take the views of the local community into account when determining licensing policy on lap dancing clubs. [212258]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are consulting with local authorities on any concerns they have which they feel cannot be addressed by existing controls, including the Licensing Act 2003 and whether we need to do more to protect local communities. We do recognise that people do not necessarily want lap-dancing establishments in their neighbourhoods and we want to ensure local authorities have the powers to reflect the views of local people when considering applications. We will therefore consider whether or not lap-dancing clubs should fall under the category of sex encounter establishments under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and legislate if this is necessary.

Visit Britain: USA

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual cost of running the Visit Britain office in New York was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [212450]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain's total grant in aid investment in the New York office is £3.0 million for 2007-08. This also includes marketing and support costs for Americas Hub activity.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of employees of the Government Equalities Office who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208369]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 and will not complete its first performance appraisal round until the end of June 2008.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Abortion: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many girls under the age of 17 *(a)* gave birth and *(b)* had an abortion in (i) Essex and (ii) England in 2007. [214074]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 17 (a) gave birth and (b) had an abortion in (i) Essex and (ii) England in 2007. (214074)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

The Office for National Statistics does not routinely publish conception figures for girls aged under 17 by local authority. Figures are however available for conceptions to girls aged under 18 and these have been provided.

Number of conceptions leading to maternities and abortions for girls aged under 18 for 2006 (latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 18 leading to a maternity and an abortion England and Essex for 2006

Area	*Conceptions leading to a maternity*	*Conceptions leading to an abortion*	*Total conceptions*
England	19,935	19,068	39,003
Essex	388	451	839

Note:
Conceptions for 2006 are provisional.

Cancer: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with cancer in *(a)* Romford and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [214[illegible]9]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with cancer in (a) Romford and (b) Essex in each of the last five years [214189]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer are for the year 2005. Figures requested are given in the table below.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1] registered in Romford parliamentary constituency and Essex county, 2001 to 2005

		Persons
	Romford	*Essex*
2001	392	6,117
2002	332	6,027
2003	399	6,189
2004	355	5,926
2005	340	6,688

[1] All cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): C00-C97 excluding C44.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Childbirth: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many live births there were in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [214806]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many live births there were in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 1997. (214806)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available figures by place of birth are for 2006. The table below shows the figures requested for the calendar years 1997 to 2006. The Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation trust was founded in April 2004. The data on live births refer to those occurring in the following hospitals that are now part of the trust: Peterborough District Maternity Unit, Peterborough District Hospital, Stamford and Rutland Hospital and Edith Cavell Hospital. The vast majority of these births took place in Peterborough District Maternity Unit. Figures on births occurring at home or elsewhere within a specific NHS Trust are not available from birth registration.

Live births in hospitals in Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 1997 to 2006

	Number of live births
1997	3,451
1998	3,448

Live births in hospitals in Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 1997 to 2006

	Number of live births
1999	3,406
2000	3,321
2001	3,266
2002	3,303
2003	3,429
2004	3,539
2005	3,474
2006	3,716

Death: Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths there were where pressure ulcers were listed on the death certificate as a contributory cause of death in each region in each of the last five years. [214460]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were where pressure ulcers were listed on the death certificate as a contributory cause of death in each region in each of the last five years. (214460)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where pressure ulcer was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, for government office regions in England, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1 Number of deaths with any mention of pressure ulcer on the death certificate,[1] Government office regions, England,[2] 2002-06[3]

					Deaths (persons)
Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	73	64	50	68	51
North West	152	155	138	160	139
Yorkshire and the Humber	67	84	69	79	78
East Midlands	66	86	75	85	74
West Midlands	132	135	127	141	122
East of England	117	121	122	122	128
London	125	105	103	114	142
South East	139	148	132	137	133
South West	73	75	59	75	68
England	944	973	875	981	935

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code L89 (Decubitus ulcer, bedsore, plaster ulcer or pressure ulcer) where it appeared anywhere on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Smoking

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths were due to a smoking-related illness in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years. [215393]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were due to smoking-related illness in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years. (215393)

Deaths due to smoking-related illness cannot be directly estimated, as smoking status is not included on the death certificate. However, research published by the then Health Development Agency in 2004 suggested that, in the period 1998-2002, some 17 per cent of all deaths in UK were attributable to smoking.[1]

[1] Twigg L, Moon G, Walker S (2004) The smoking epidemic in England. London: Health Development Agency.

Death: Winter

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people resident in Peterborough city council area over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [214572]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in Peterborough city council area over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 2004. (214572)

The table attached provides the number of deaths in winter (the months December to March inclusive) of people resident in Peterborough unitary authority over the age of 65, for the years 2003/04 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

Table 1: Deaths in winter of persons over the age of 65[1], Peterborough unitary authority[2], 2003-04 to 2005-06

Winter	*Deaths*
2003-04	394
2004-05	432
2005-06	440

[1] Deaths in winter were defined as those occurring in December of one year, plus those occurring in January to March of the following year.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2008 for all years.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agency which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215180]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to my response to him of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1243W.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the volume of *(a)* memoranda, *(b)* e-mails, *(c)* letters, *(d)* other communications sent by members of his Department to destinations (i) within the Cabinet Office, (ii) in the Central Office of Information and (iii) in No. 10 Downing Street and (iv) in other Government departments since June 2007; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [211788]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office has made no estimate of the volume and cost of *(a)* memoranda, *(b)* e-mails, *(c)* letters, *(d)* other communications sent by members of his Department to destinations (i) within the Cabinet Office, (ii) in the Central Office of Information and (iii) in No. 10 Downing street and other Government Departments since June 2007.

Employment: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the North West in each year since 1997. [213647]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time jobs there were in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the North West in each year since 1997. (213647)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is the preferred source for estimates at the detailed level requested although the estimates refer to the number of people in employment rather than the number of jobs.

The attached table provides estimates of the number of people aged 16 and over, in full and part-time employment, resident in Chorley, Lancashire and the North West.

As some of these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Number of people, aged 16 and over, in full and part-time[1] employment, resident in Chorley parliamentary constituency[2], Lancashire[3] and the north-west[4], 1998-2007

Thousand

	Chorley[2]			*Lancashire[3]*			*North West[4]*		
12 months ending	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
February									
1998[5]	33	12	46	383	124	507	2,205	707	2,912
1999[5]	39	10	49	378	129	507	2,205	724	2,929
2000[5]	44	8	53	392	126	517	2,241	714	2,955
2001[5]	40	9	49	385	123	508	2,251	716	2,967
2002[5]	40	10	50	386	125	511	2,266	732	2,998
2003[5]	36	13	48	385	137	522	2,287	736	3,023
2004[5]	33	16	49	406	149	555	2,321	780	3,101
March									
2005[6]	38	13	52	397	136	533	2,356	763	3,119
2006[6]	34	15	50	406	136	542	2,377	762	3,140
2007[6]	41	13	55	407	132	539	2,372	780	3,152

[1] Includes those full-time and part-time on New Deal.

[2] 1995 parliamentary constituency boundary to February 2004, 2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision thereafter.

[3] Local authority district.

[4] Government office region.

[5] Based on annual Labour Force Survey (LFS).

[6] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS).

Notes:

1. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
2. Due to rounding the totals may not sum.

Source:

Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

Heads of Government Summit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the contract for the provision of the facilities for the Heads of Government Summit held on 5 April was put out to competitive tender. [211792]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

No individual contract for the provision of the facilities for the Progressive Governance summit in April was put out to competitive tender by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The Progressive Governance summit on 5 April was an inter-governmental summit, responsibility for which fell to the Government who were liable for the costs.

The FCO made a contribution to the costs which included the hire of the hotel and for the provision of media facilities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost of the Heads of Government Summit held on 5 April was; and how much was spent on *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* transport, *(c)* conference room hire, *(d)* food, *(e)* alcoholic drinks, *(f)* soft drinks and *(g)* other. [211794]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The total cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the Progressive Governance summit was £287,790.92.

The breakdown is shown as follows:

	Cost (£)
Accommodation	1,141.70
Transport	3,325.83
Conference room hire	28,400.00
Food	16,996.00
Alcoholic drinks	581.50
Soft drinks (including juice, tea, coffee and water)	6,975.60

Other costs (£230,370.29) were made up as follows:

	Cost (£)
Security	13,685.97
Branding	34,862.25
Accreditation	11,324.18
Audio-visual/public address services	85,562.33
Press marquee/Ramada Hotel assembly point	55,937.70
Promotional items	6,024.11
Website hosting	2,444.00
Secretariat equipment	1,644.29
Interpretation	2,048.02
Staff overtime	5,000.00
The Grove ancillary charges	11,837.44

A clear distinction was maintained between costs of the summit borne by the FCO and those which fell to the Policy Network, who organised the Progressive Governance conference on the preceding day.

Teenage Pregnancy: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many conceptions there were in girls of *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15 and *(e)* 14 years or under in Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [214573]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many conceptions there were to girls of (a) 18, (b) 17, (c) 16, (d) 15 and (e) 14 years or under in Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. (214573)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority because of the risk of disclosing individual's information. Figures for girls aged 16, 17 and 18 are not readily available. ONS, however, routinely publishes conception figures for girls aged under 16 and under 18 by local authorities. Therefore, number of conceptions for girls in these age groups in Peterborough UA for the years 1997-2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the table below. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Conceptions are estimated using the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 and under 18, Peterborough UA 1997-2006

	Under 18	*Under 16*
1997	161	26
1998	185	34
1999	158	24
2000	147	27
2001	167	31
2002	179	32
2003	155	32
2004	175	32
2005	184	40
2006[1]	190	25

[1] Conceptions for 2006 are provisional.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many workless households there were in Peterborough constituency in each month since January 2001. [214567]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on how many workless households there were in Peterborough constituency in each month since January 2001. [214567]

Data has already been provided on Workless Households in the Peterborough Constituency for the three months ending in June of 1999 and 2001-2007, Official Report 28 January 2008, columns 68W-69W. Workless household data are not available on a more frequent basis.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the access of humanitarian agencies to refugees of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [213380]

Mr. Malik: Security in most provinces across Afghanistan is broadly stable and allows the Government, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, the United Nations, donors, and Non-Governmental Organisations to continue their work. In the South and South-East the security situation presents some difficulties for humanitarian agencies to operate.

Presently humanitarian agencies have limited access to insecure areas in the South and South East of Afghanistan. As a consequence, the capacity to conduct needs assessments, deliver assistance and monitor implementation is reduced. In situations where programme monitoring is required or there is an identified humanitarian need but the UN does not have access, UNHCR and other agencies work closely with other humanitarian actors (such as NGOs) and the Government of Afghanistan, who have more access. In dire emergencies where NGOs or GoA cannot assist due to high levels of insecurity—the UN will engage military actors such as ISAF.

Afghanistan: Schools

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which *(a)* provinces and *(b)* districts of Afghanistan his Department does not have information on the number of schools. [214940]

Mr. Malik: According to data obtained from the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan, there are schools located in every province of Afghanistan but a breakdown of exact figures for the number of schools in every district is not available. Although data collection is still poor, the Ministry of Education estimates that there are currently 9,500 schools located across all districts in Afghanistan.

For more information, please see the Ministry of Education website at:

www.moe.gov.af

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 290W, on Afghanistan: schools, how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there were in each previous year for which records are held. [215032]

Mr. Malik: According to the Ministry of Education's most recent School Survey Programme Report, there were: 5,024 primary schools (1,817 male, 728 female and 2,479 mixed); 2,506 lower secondary (840 male, 374 female and 1,302 mixed); and 1,532 higher secondary (753 male, 235 female and 544 mixed) in August 2007.

The following information is from the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan, responsible for recording data on education. Data collection is still poor in Afghanistan and as a result, the following table shows numbers inclusive of both primary and secondary schools.

Educational statistics from 2001 to 2006 on school numbers

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2001	3,389	0	3,389
2002	5,077	962	6,039
2003	5,990	1,147	7,137
2004	6,813	1,441	8,254
2005	5,541	2,857	8,398
2006	5,541	2,857	8,398

For more information, please see the Ministry of Education website at:

www.moe.gov.af

Central Asia: HIV Infection

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the incidence of HIV/AIDS amongst children in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia; and what assistance has been provided by his Department to tackle the problem. [213474]

Mr. Malik: According to national data and UNAIDS estimates, HIV and AIDS incidence and prevalence in Central Asia is low, with less than 0.1 per cent. of the general population infected. Currently, UNAIDS does not produce data on how many children in Central Asia are infected.

There have been localised outbreaks of HIV infection in children in the Kyrgyz Republic and in Kazakhstan caused by unsafe practices in hospitals such as re-using needles and catheters. These outbreaks expose weaknesses in health service delivery.

Following the most recent outbreak of HIV in children in the Kyrgyz Republic (72 children infected), the Department for International Development (DFID) and other donors worked closely with the Ministry of Health to implement an action plan. This included treatment and care for infected children, anti-retroviral therapy, counselling for relatives, and raising awareness among wider communities.

This plan was partly funded from a £7 million DFID grant to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health which, together with support from other donors, aims to increase the quality of health care services throughout the country.

Children: Mining

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of children working in mining in *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia and *(c)* South America. [213597]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not make its own estimates of the number of children working in the mining industry. For this we rely on the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which estimates the number of children working in the mining sector to be over 1 million worldwide. DFID supports the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to help countries implement core labour standards that include the elimination of child labour. We are also working with the ILO and civil society organisations to promote efforts to remove children from all hazardous labour. DFID has a £20 million partnership framework for three years (2006-09) with the ILO.

DFID supports and currently chairs the Communities and Small scale Mining (CASM) initiative. This is a network that includes mining communities as well as international experts. It is based in the World Bank HQ in Washington DC and is active in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and South and Central America. As one of the four central themes of its work, Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) includes a focus on children working in dangerous and hazardous conditions in small-scale mining. CASM fully recognizes the extent and nature of child labour and is committed to its elimination from the mining industry.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213700]

Mr. Malik: DFID only has two buildings in the UK, and not carried out any new builds or major refurbishment of these in the last three years. We have therefore not conducted any BREEAM assessments.

Overseas, we completed the following works:

New builds completed over the last three financial years

Financial year	*New build completed*
2005-06	None
2006-07	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Islamabad, Pakistan Kabul, Afghanistan
2007-08	Kampala, Uganda

Refurbishments completed over the last three financial years

Financial year	*Refurbishments completed*
2005-06	None
2006-07	None
2007-08	Khartoum, Sudan

We have applied the BRE methodology to previous refurbishment projects in the UK, and are currently considering how it might be applied to building projects in the developing countries in which we operate.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213745]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is as follows.

New builds completed over the last three financial years

Financial year	*New build completed*
2005-06	None
2006-07	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Islamabad, Pakistan Kabul, Afghanistan
2007-08	Kampala, Uganda

Refurbishments completed over the last three financial years

Financial year	*Refurbishments completed*
2005-06	None
2006-07	None
2007-08	Khartoum, Sudan

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and (c) new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213530]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central record of expenditure on new furnishings, art or new vehicles. Compiling this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Economic Growth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements his Department has put in place to involve the private sector in supporting economic growth in developing countries. [213207]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) promotes policies and programmes which enable the private sector to support economic growth in developing countries. DFID's approach is to help make markets work better in a way that facilitates the private sector as the engine of growth. The private sector supports growth by making productive investments, creating jobs and generating profits on which tax is levied to finance essential public services.

DFID works with governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to develop conducive investment climates that facilitate private sector led market development; and supports various mechanisms that involve working with the private sector more directly.

For example, DFID led the development of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa and a variety of challenge funds which are being used to facilitate private sector engagement and innovation in economic reform in developing countries. DFID's work in many partner countries also focuses on specific activities that support private sector development such as financial sector development, reform of business regulation, tax systems and addressing constraints to fair competition.

In response to the Call for Action on the MDGs launched by the Prime Minister with the UN Secretary-General last July, the Government are working with UNDP and the private sector to secure commitments by business to develop initiatives which will contribute to growth in developing countries and help meet the MDGs. The Government have also since 2002 launched Transparency initiatives in key sectors for growth such as extractives and construction to help minimise corruption in the sectors and maximise their contribution to growth.

Indonesia: Environment Protection

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide support to the Indonesian government to protect peatlands and rehabilitate degraded peatlands. [213796]

Mr. Malik: I visited Indonesia on the 23 and 24 June this year. Department for International Development (DFID) funding to the Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance helped the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry gather information on Indonesia's peatlands and the importance of peatland rehabilitation in tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

DFID is in discussions with the Government of Indonesia on future support to improve land governance and spatial planning, as a precondition for tackling emissions from land-use change.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether, as part of his work on the environmental transformation fund, he has assessed the possible contribution of Indonesia's rainforests and peatlands in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. [213797]

Mr. Malik: I visited Indonesia from the 23 to 24 of June. Department for International Development (DFID) funding of £250,000 to the Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance helped the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry assess the contribution of Indonesia's rainforests and peatlands to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Government of Indonesia is setting out a national investment framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The framework will allow the effective use of multilateral funds, such as the environmental transformation fund.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in meeting the pledges entered into by the UK at the G8 summit at Gleneagles in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [213644]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is maintaining its Gleneagles pledges. DFID is increasing aid in line with commitments, and we are on track to reach 0.7 per cent. by 2013. We have also written off billions in debt since 2005. The UK continues to exceed its commitment on debt relief, giving 100 per cent. debt cancellation on bilateral debts to the UK for heavily indebted poor countries. In addition, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative agreed at Gleneagles in 2005 has delivered an additional $42 billion of debt cancellation to 23 countries including 19 in Africa. We have pledged £8.5 billion for education over 10 years, and we have doubled our aid for water. At the G8 summit last year, there was a further commitment of US $60 billion for health in which we will play our part.

The UK has also led efforts to establish monitoring mechanisms since Gleneagles, and supports and participates in the G8's annual Progress Report, the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) and the Africa Progress Panel (APP).

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Somalia. [215026]

Mr. Malik: The humanitarian situation in many parts of Somalia has significantly deteriorated due to a combination of negative factors such as conflict, drought, hyperinflation and a broad economic crisis. The ongoing conflict continues to disrupt livelihoods, provision of services and delivery of relief assistance in addition to the directly caused deaths, injuries, and displacement. Since January 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £17.9 million for humanitarian assistance to the worst affected areas. This includes £12 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) to address the rising food prices in support of their recent appeals.

South East Asia: Palm Oil

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to support a moratorium on the further conversion of rainforests and peatlands for palm oil in Southeast Asia. [213795]

Mr. Malik: I visited the region on the 23 and 24 June 2008. The Department for International Development (DFID) has not considered a moratorium on the further conversion of rainforests and peatlands for palm oil in Southeast Asia.

DFID funding to the Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance helped the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry gather information on land devoted to palm oil. It showed that the area of land devoted to oil palm in Indonesia may double by 2020.

DFID is discussing with the Government of Indonesia and other donors how to improve the sustainability of oil palm production. This includes reforms to spatial planning and to focus oil palm development on degraded mineral soils.

United Nations: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what lessons were learned from the 2007 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS review; and what changes have been made as a result. [213252]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 2007 UNAIDS AIDS Epidemiology Update reported that the percentage of the world's adult population living with HIV has levelled off and some countries have achieved reductions. However, the proportion of people living with HIV (PLWH) globally is increasing, because of new infections, and the fact that people are surviving longer once they are infected. The report does not change the need for immediate action to scale-up towards Universal Access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

The UK Government's updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" sets out action the UK will take to help achieve Universal Access. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213743]

Mr. Malik: The only significant timber or timber products that the Department for International Development (DFID) purchases are items of furniture. We are unable to provide the information requested as we do not separately identify either the quantity or value of such products from other items of furniture purchased.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213744]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has an Environmental Procurement Policy which requires that all timber and timber products are procured from sustainable and legal resources, in accordance with Government guidelines.

The only significant timber or timber products we purchase are some items of furniture, but we are unable to provide this information as we do not separately identify either the quantity or value of such products from other items of furniture purchased.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to assist Zimbabwe in reconstruction when stability is re-established. [214191]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development is ready to make a leading contribution to Zimbabwe's recovery. We have been working with the donor community, the International Financial Institutions, and the UN to ensure that a swift and well co-ordinated support package will be put in place as soon as the time is right.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Afghan military formations are based in Helmand province; and what assessment he has made of their state of operational effectiveness. [212454]

Des Browne: Currently, there are seven battalions, or kandaks, of the Afghan National Army (ANA) based in Helmand province. Five of these comprise the 3rd Brigade of the 205th Corps (3/205 Brigade) of the ANA. This includes three Combat Kandaks; one Combat Support Kandak; and one Combat Service Support Kandak. There is also a Counter-Narcotics Kandak active in the province, and an additional Combat Kandak seconded from the 4th Brigade of the 205th Corps (4/205 Brigade) to assist operations in Helmand province.

Afghan troops deployed in Helmand are continuing to increase in capability and have performed impressively on many occasions alongside our own, showing great courage; for example, the ANA led the highly successful operation to recapture the town of Musa Qaleh in December 2007, and took the lead in recent operations to secure the city of Kandahar following the Taliban attack on the prison there. We will continue to work closely with them to build their capacity and bring security to the province.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to monitor the adequacy of equipment deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [203652]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: Theatre Equipment Reviews are undertaken on a six monthly basis. They take account of Defence concurrency needs, the theatre context and the specific military tasks required. They identify the relevant equipment and resource needs and make recommendations for the delivery of equipment, including urgent operational requirements. They are linked to Force Level Reviews, to ensure coherence between manpower levels and equipment.

The mechanism for reporting complaints about equipment or the spares system is the Equipment Failure Report. These are entered onto the equipment failure reporting system and forwarded to the appropriate Defence Equipment and Support Integrated Project Team for investigation and action.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of troop numbers required in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* each of the subsequent five years. [213768]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: We keep the size and composition of the UK military commitment to Afghanistan under regular review and will make further adjustments where necessary, as we have in the past.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to page 45 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, what the evidential basis is for the statement that the armed forces are entering a phase of overall reduced commitments; and what the trend in commitments has been since publication of the strategy. [212408]

Des Browne: The hon. Member highlights a phrase in the National Security Strategy that describes our intent to further reduce the commitment of UK forces to combat operations, notably in Iraq. As I explained in my statement of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 107WS, it remains our clear direction of travel and our plan to make further reductions in force levels in Iraq, as and when conditions allow.

Since the publication of the strategy in March 2008, the trend in overall commitments has remained broadly constant. As I explained in my statement of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 678, the recent review of forces deployed to Afghanistan aims principally to rebalance capability and the planned uplift of 230 posts represents a modest adjustment to our existing commitment. The deployment of the Operational Reserve Force to Kosovo from 31 May involves some 600 personnel for a planned period of only one month.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiments *(a)* have and *(b)* have not conducted operational tours in the last five years. [214213]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) which showed which units have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

All regiments within the Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Artillery have conducted operational tours in the last five years as formed units.

Elements from other arms and services usually deploy as sub-units, on attachment to other units, or as individual augmentees. Information on sub-unit deployments is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Army service personnel have not performed frontline duty during their service. [214214]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on armed forces: deployment, how many armed forces personnel were placed on standby prior to planned firefighters' strikes in each year since 1997. [214456]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel are only used to provide cover during fire strikes as a last resort. There are accordingly no armed forces personnel on permanent standby or permanently trained to provide emergency fire cover. In the event of a strike, fire services are expected to explore all other available options drawing on professional fire fighters. This has been borne out during the last two years, as military assistance was not required during Fire Brigade Union industrial action in Hertfordshire and Merseyside in 2006. We do not put people on standby for planned strikes unless we have received a formal request from the defence communities and local government for assistance and it has been approved by the Defence Council. The following table details such operations:

	Location of strike	*Number of personnel involved*
2006	Merseyside	No personnel involved
	Hertfordshire	No personnel involved
2005	Suffolk	451
	West Midlands	115
2003-04	National Strike	3,800
2002-03	National Strike	19,000
2001	Merseyside	539
1998	Essex	450

Armed Forces: Fire Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of providing fire fighters from the armed forces during industrial action by civilian fire fighters in each year since 1997. [214339]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There were no costs borne by the Department from the provision of fire fighters from the armed forces during industrial action by fire fighters. In accordance with HM Treasury charging policy, the costs associated with the provision of emergency fire cover during periods of industrial action were recovered from the Government Department responsible for Fire and Rescue Services: the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors. The costs recovered by the Department are as follows:

	Strike action	*Cost (£ million)*
2006	Merseyside	[1]—
	Hertfordshire	[1]—
2005	Suffolk	0.05
	West Midlands	0.249
2003-04	National	0.604
2002-03	National	75.00
2001	Merseyside	0.648
1998	Essex	[2]—

[1] No personnel deployed.

[2] No information available.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training exercises have been conducted in assisting with civilian fire fighting duties by members of the armed forces in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* number of personnel trained was in each case. [214340]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fire fighting is not a core task for service personnel. Accordingly they do not normally conduct training exercises with civilian fire fighters. Training for the personnel involved in the operations set out in the following table was conducted when it became clear that a strike was likely to occur and the Department for Communities and Local Government had formally requested defence support as other options had been exhausted.

	Location of strike	*Number of personnel involved*
2006	Merseyside	[1]
	Hertfordshire	[1]
2005	Suffolk	451
	West Midlands	115
2003-04	National strike	3,800

	Location of strike	Number of personnel involved
2002-03	National strike	19,000
2001	Merseyside	539
1998	Essex	450

[1] No personnel involved.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving military personnel in each age range in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force are (i) single, (ii) married, (iii) divorced and (iv) separated. [214384]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records on the number of serving military personnel in each age range by marital status are not held centrally, following the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prior to JPA information on the strength of the UK regular forces by marital status and age was published in Tri-Service Publication 11, "UK Regular Forces Marital Status" (TSP 11). Copies of the most recent and historical publications can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=110&date=2007-06-08&disText=1%20Apr%202007&from=listing&topDate=2007-06-08.

Figures for the naval service were last published as at 1 October 2006, Army as at 1 March 2007 and RAF as at 1 April 2006.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been recruited to the armed forces from each region in the United Kingdom in the last three years. [214212]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on recruitment by region is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 718W, on armed forces: recruitment, for what reasons the recruitment target for the Army in 2005-06 was set at 73,400. [214366]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This was due to a printing error in the Hansard Publication which has been identified and a correction requested for the bound volume.

The correct recruitment target for the Army in 2005-06 was 13,400.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces recruitment centres there are in each region of the UK. [214382]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The parent Armed Forces Careers Offices (AFCO) and their satellite offices are listed:

Scotland and Northern Ireland—total six

Aberdeen
Belfast—with satellites at Coleraine, Omagh, and Portadown
Dundee—with satellites at Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, and Perth
Edinburgh—with satellites at Bathgate, Dumfries, and Galashiels
Glasgow—with satellites at Dumbarton, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Paisley, and Stirling
Inverness—with satellites at Elgin, and Wick

North East—total five

Hull—with satellites at Scarborough, and York
Leeds—with satellites at Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield
Middlesbrough—with satellites at Bishop Auckland, Catterick, Darlington, and Durham
Newcastle—with satellites at Ashington, South Shields, and Sunderland
Sheffield—with satellites at Barnsley, and Doncaster

East Midlands—total six

Cambridge—with a satellite at Luton
Leicester—with a satellite at Northampton
Lincoln—with satellites at Boston and Grimsby
Norwich—with a satellite at Ipswich
Nottingham—with satellites at Chesterfield, Derby, and Mansfield
Peterborough

South East—total five

Brighton—with satellites at Chichester, Crawley and Hastings
Chatham—with satellites at Canterbury, Dover, and Tunbridge Wells
London—with satellites at Blackheath, Croydon, Ilford, Strand, and Wembley
Reading—with satellites at Milton Keynes, and Oxford
Southend—with satellites at Chelmsford, and Colchester

South West—total six

Bournemouth—with a satellite at Salisbury
Bristol—with satellites at Bath, and Swindon
Exeter—with satellites at Barnstaple and Taunton
Plymouth—with a satellite at Torquay
Portsmouth—with satellites at Aldershot, Guildford, Newport (Isle of Wight),
Southampton
Redruth

West Midland and South Wales—total six

Birmingham—with satellites at Coventry and Wolverhampton
Cardiff—with satellites at Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, and Pontypridd
Gloucester
Shrewsbury—with satellites at Hereford, and Worcester
Stoke—with a satellite at Burton-upon-Trent
Swansea—with satellites at Carmarthen, and Haverfordwest

North West and North Wales—total five

Carlisle—with satellites at Barrow-in-Furness, and Workington
Liverpool—with satellites at Birkenhead, Chester, St Helens, and Warrington
Manchester—with satellites at Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, and Wigan
Preston—with satellites at Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley and Lancaster
Wrexham—with satellites at Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Rhyl

Armed Forces: Training

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much training time for future officers at Sandhurst comprises counter-insurgency tactics and operations. [213984]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately 17 per cent. of the 44 weeks of instruction an officer cadet receives at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is devoted to counter-insurgency tactics and operations. These are known as stabilisation operations at Sandhurst. The teaching is conducted in a variety of ways including theory, demonstrations, practice periods and two field exercises.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much training time for *(a)* regulars and *(b)* Territorial Army personnel on pre-deployment to theatre is given to counter-insurgency tactics and operations. [213985]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All soldiers deploying on operations will undertake theatre-specific Pre-Deployment Training (PDT), tailored to the particular needs of the unit, or individual, and the role they will undertake while on operations. The amount of time within the respective PDT programme that is dedicated to counter-insurgency tactics and operations will therefore vary.

Current operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan have a heavy, though not exclusive, focus upon counter insurgency activity, and this is mirrored in the respective PDT, which is usually undertaken over a period of six months.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* in service, *(b)* fit for purpose and *(c)* not available. [214386]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	In service	*Fit for purpose*	*Not available*
Challenger 2	345	322	23
Driver Track Trg Vehicle	22	21	1
Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle	81	75	6
Trojan	16	14	2
Titan	14	12	2
Warrior	793	590	203
Saxon	147	143	4
Samson	52	30	22
Spartan	555	231	324
Scimitar	360	228	132
Samaritan	50	33	17
Sultan	205	119	86
FV430	1,490	1,118	372
Mastiff	108	108	0
WMIK/Jackal	52	50	2
Vector	169	169	0
Viking	—	—	—
Panther	59	59	0

For clarity, the in service numbers represent the total fleet numbers, the fit for purpose are those currently available, and the not available figure is the difference between the two.

Currently available vehicles include those awaiting minor repairs or in transit to theatre. Those vehicles not available will be undergoing major 'depth' repair or planned refit programmes.

FV430 are currently undergoing a major upgrade programme to convert to Bulldog. A high proportion of Spartan, Scimitar and Sultan vehicles are also either undergoing major overhaul or are scheduled for refit.

AWE Burghfield: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the cost of AWE Burghfield's operations in 2007-08 was apportioned in the Defence budget. [212332]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The full costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment are funded from the Defence budget. For 2007-08, most of those costs were apportioned through Defence Equipment and Support, with a small proportion allocated through the Central Top Level Budget for Ministry of Defence police activities.

AWE Burghfield: Floods

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2138W, on AWE Burghfield: floods, whether a flood protection strategy has been developed for the Burghfield site; and whether hydraulic modelling has been conducted for the site. [213569]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A flood protection strategy is being implemented at the AWE Burghfield site and a hydraulic model of the catchment area of AWE Burghfield, both upstream and downstream, has been prepared. The model will be used for analysis and simulation of future design options and for the preparation of detailed designs.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date a flood risk assessment for the proposed new Conventional Manufacturing Rationalisation Facility at AWE Burghfield was submitted to the local planning authority. [213570]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A flood risk assessment for the Conventional Manufacturing Facility was sent to West Berkshire Council planning authority with the planning application on 22 May 2008, and can be viewed on their planning application website:

http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=08/00954/COMIND

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been conducted by his Department to establish whether the proposed major housing development at Kennet Valley Park would have implications for *(a)* flood protection and *(b)* safety requirements at AWE Burghfield. [213571]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD is aware of this proposed housing development and it has been taken into account in the flood protection strategy for AWE Burghfield.

As with any planning application submitted to the local planning authority, key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive will be consulted by the council before a final decision is made. The local planning authority's response will take account of all relevant elements of the area's existing land usage, including the proximity of AWE Burghfield, and any flood protection and safety requirements.

AWE Burghfield: Planning Permission

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a site development strategy for AWE Burghfield has been *(a)* prepared and *(b)* submitted to the local planning authority. [213573]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A Site Development Context Plan was created in 2005 and represents the site development strategy for both the AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield sites from 2005 to 2015. The original Site Development Context Plan was submitted to the West Berkshire council planning authority in November 2005. An update of the plan was sent on 22 May 2008 and is available on the West Berkshire Planning Application website:

http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=08/00954/COMIND

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213730]

Derek Twigg: The requested information is not held centrally or in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's current corporate planning assumption rates are for *(a)* foreign exchange and *(b)* petrol, oil and lubricants. [210929]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence corporate planning assumptions (CPAs) are designed to enable financial planning on a common basis across the Department. The foreign exchange rates are based on the forward rates prevailing at the time the assumptions are prepared. The fuel price assumptions are based on projections produced by the MOD Chief Economist's staff at the same time. CPAs are updated at regular intervals so that any changes in the projections can be incorporated into forward financial plans.

For Planning Round 2009, which is now under way, the Department's CPAs for foreign exchange and propulsion fuel (there is no CPA equating to 'petrol, oil and lubricants') are shown in the following tables.

Forward exchange rates[1], taken on 19 May 2008

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
US dollar	1.87	1.88	1.87	1.86
Euro	1.34	1.30	1.27	1.23
Canadian dollar	1.96	1.94	1.91	1.89

[1] Foreign currency to sterling rates

Source:

Bank of England.

Propulsion fuel prices[1], taken on 12 April 2008

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Aviation Fuel	440	390	370	370
Marine Fuel	350	320	300	300
Road Diesel	1110	1060	1050	1070
Other Propulsion Fuels	1030	990	990	1000

[1] £ per cubic metre unless stated.

Source:

MOD calculations.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213126]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For those positions in the MOD that require national security vetting, applicants are required to complete a security questionnaire declaring both unspent and spent convictions. The data are checked by the Defence Vetting Agency, which has direct access to the Police National Computer, along with a range of other checks as described in the Prime Minister's statement on vetting on 15 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns 764-66W.

Where it is judged that national security vetting is unnecessary and the level of risk is acceptable, the Government Baseline Personnel Security Standard is applied. This requires recruits to declare unspent convictions against which random checks are carried out. When individuals will be working with children or vulnerable adults, their consent is sought to carry out additional checks through the Defence Vetting Agency with the Criminal Records Bureau.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many appointments of one star and above there are within the EU military command structure. [214150]

Des Browne: There is no standing European Union (EU) military command structure. The military bodies that support the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) are:

The EU Military Committee (EUMC), which is a regular meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff or their representatives from the EU member states. The EUMC includes two permanent appointments of one star or above (a four star appointment and a one star appointment)

The EU Military Staff (EUMS), which is a permanent body within the Council Secretariat that performs early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning, and implements policies and decisions as directed by the EUMC. There are eight appointments of one star and above in the EUMS (a three star appointment, a two star appointment and six one star appointments).

Out of these appointments, the UK currently holds one three star appointment in the EUMS. Other appointments in the EUMC and EUMS are drawn from across the other 26 EU member states.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the military staff of the European Union is; and what UK contribution there is to that staff. [214151]

Des Browne: The role and tasks of the European Union Military Staff, as set out in the treaty of Nice, are:

> It is the source of the EU's military expertise.
>
> It assures the link between the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) on the one hand and the military resources available to the EU on the other, and it provides military expertise to EU bodies as directed by the EUMC.
>
> It provides an early warning capability. It plans, assesses and makes recommendations regarding the concept of crisis management and the general military strategy and implements the decisions and guidance of the EUMC.
>
> It supports the EUMC regarding situation assessment and military aspects of strategic planning, over the full range of Petersberg tasks, for all cases of EU-led operations, whether or not the EU draws on NATO assets and capabilities.
>
> It contributes to the process of elaboration, assessment and review of the capability goals taking into account the need, for those member states concerned, to ensure coherence with NATO's defence planning process (DPP) and the planning and review process (PARP) of the partnership for peace (PfP) in accordance with agreed procedures.
>
> It has the responsibility to monitor, assess and make recommendations regarding the forces and capabilities made available to the EU by the member states, on training, exercises and interoperability.

18 British military personnel are currently seconded to the European Union Military Staff.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the creation of a European military air transport command under the management of the EU. [214352]

Des Browne: There is no European military air transport command under the management of the EU, nor is one proposed. The European Air Transport Command is an initiative between France, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands to provide military transport to the participating countries in a more cost effective way. We do not intend to join this initiative.

Falkland Islands: Airbridge

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what timetable he has put in place for awarding the contract for the future provision of the airbridge to the Falkland Islands; [214090]

(2) which organisation operates the flights on the Falkland Islands airbridge; [214091]

(3) how many tenders his Department has received for the new contract to provide the Falkland Islands airbridge; [214092]

(4) how many airbridge flights to the Falkland Islands there were each week in each of the last three years; and how many flights per week he expects under the new contract to provide the service. [214093]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD issued seven invitations to tender, six of which were returned. Contract award is planned for end of July 2008 with a contract start date of 1 October 2008. The organisation currently responsible for operating the flights on the Falkland Islands airbridge is Omni Air International under contract with Air Partner plc. The schedules were arranged on the basis of three flights each two weeks. The actual number of flights was 73, 75 and 76 for 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. The frequency of flights under the new contract will be decided as part of the evaluation process.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average occupancy rate on a Falkland Islands airbridge flight was in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2005; and what proportion of such occupancy was accounted for by (i) military and (ii) non-military passengers. [214098]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average occupancy on a Falkland Islands airbridge is shown in the following table:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total average numbers of passengers per flight	168	180	190	170
Total average number of non-military passengers per flight (percentage)	14	14	13	15
Total average number of military passengers per flight (percentage)	86	86	87	85

These figures include passengers that disembark/embark in both Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have lost all or part of their sight through service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [210370]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by examining the personal medical file of every current and former service man and woman, which would additionally require the permission of all individuals.

Lebanon: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what contribution his Department has made to *(a)* the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and *(b)* training Lebanese armed forces since August 2006; [214034]

(2) when his Department last reviewed the level of its contribution to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. [214036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD contributed to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with the deployment of HMS York from August to November 2006. HMS York formed a part of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force (TF) responsible for provision of maritime surveillance and protection of the Lebanese coast against illegal smuggling. In addition, the UK seconded a Royal Navy Commander to the UN Headquarters to assist the UN in making logistics and other arrangements for the UN Maritime Task Force.

The MOD last reviewed its contribution to UNIFIL in the summer of 2006 which resulted in these deployments which have now concluded. We nevertheless keep the situation in Lebanon under regular review.

Since August 2006, we have continued to identify training needs and where appropriate and possible, provide a range of training programmes for the Lebanese armed forces. Training provided focuses on officer, staff and command development, in order to build capacity and capability within the Lebanese armed forces.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance on counter-terrorism his Department has provided to the Lebanese army since August 2006. [214035]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of such assistance to individual countries as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Military Bases: Aviation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military airfields within a 30 mile radius of London have runways long enough to accommodate a Boeing 747. [214863]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no military airfields within a 30 mile radius of London with the necessary infrastructure to safely accommodate a Boeing 747.

Nuclear Disarmament

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on nuclear disarmament, what *(a)* structure and *(b)* timetable he plans to establish for the technical conference of P5 nuclear laboratories on the verification of nuclear disarmament. [214002]

Des Browne: As stated in my response on 5 June 2008, the offer is for a P5 conference hosted by the UK rather than a UK conference to which the P5 states are simply invited. Therefore, the structure and timetable, as well as any subsequent publicity, will need to be mutually agreed by all five participating states. MOD and FCO officials continue to actively engage with their P5 counterparts and I will keep the house informed of progress.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 44W, on nuclear submarines, what role his Department has played in the formulation of safety plans for berths as specified under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001. [213951]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has put in place arrangements to comply in full with the legislation as interpreted and enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) as the statutory regulator to accommodate nuclear powered submarines. This includes all required consultation with, and in support of, other agencies or authorities.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he has taken of the environmental effect of the decommissioning of nuclear submarines and storage of nuclear material on the west of Scotland in formulating policy, with particular regard to *(a)* Faslane and *(b)* Coulport. [212947]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The nuclear submarines that are undergoing decommissioning are currently in afloat storage at HM Naval Base Devonport, in South West England, and Rosyth Dockyard, in the East of Scotland. An assessment of the environmental effect of this afloat storage on the West of Scotland is therefore not considered necessary.

The future dismantling of these submarines, including the disposal of Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste, falls within the scope of the Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines (ISOLUS) project. The ISOLUS project expects to undertake environmental assessments in accordance with the relevant statutes. At this point in the project, environmental effects are being considered generically and not in reference to specific sites.

The MOD's management arrangements for Nuclear Materials operations, including storage, are underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 and Radioactive Substances Act 1993. These arrangements are subject to scrutiny by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and continue to be assessed as satisfactory. These arrangements apply across all relevant MOD sites including Faslane and Coulport.

Warships

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many frigates and destroyers were identified in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review as being required by the Royal Navy to fulfil their tasks; how many are in service; and how many are expected to be in service in 2012. [214172]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: The 1998 Strategic Defence Review identified a requirement for 32 destroyers and frigates. This was changed to 25 in the 2004 White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World, Future Capabilities (Cm 6269)", and this remains the number presently in service. On current plans, the number of destroyers and frigates in service in 2012 will fluctuate as the Type 42 destroyers are replaced by the new Type 45s, though we would expect there to be between 21 and 23 ships in service during the course of that year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* destroyers, *(b)* frigates and *(c)* submarines are available for tasking. [214362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of the 25 June 2008 the Royal Navy has six destroyers, 14 frigates and six submarines available for tasking. These figures are subject to daily change as a result of maintenance and operational requirements.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how many permanent staff within her Office are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215568]

Helen Goodman: None.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what the average annual additional costs allowance claim was in each of the last three years; [214607]

(2) how many hon. and right hon. Members have received additional payments for security costs at their second home in the last five years; [214608]

(3) how many hon. and right hon. Members claimed mortgage interest through the additional costs allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many claimed the full allowance. [214609]

Helen Goodman: The average amount paid to hon. Members who have claimed the additional costs allowance (ACA) in the last three years for which information is available is as follows:

	Average amount paid to hon. Members (£)
2004-05	17,805
2005-06	15,804
2006-07	19,296

The general election in May 2005 means that the number of hon. Members claiming ACA in 2005-06 included some who left the House and had entitlement to a reduced amount of ACA.

Information is not available on the costs of security measures for Members' second homes met through the ACA. A central budget can, in certain circumstances, provide top-up funds for security measures. One Member has received an additional payment for security costs at their second home. These costs related exclusively to a constituency office located at this address.

415 Members claimed mortgage interest through the ACA in 2006-07.

173 Members claimed the maximum additional costs allowance available in the same year.

Members: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. and right hon. Members receive additional salary payments for governmental responsibilities in addition to the basic salary. [214735]

Helen Goodman: In accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975 limiting the number of paid Ministers, there are 88 hon. and right hon. Members who receive additional salary payments for governmental responsibilities in addition to their basic salaries.

A full list of all Government Ministers is kept up to date on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page2988.asp.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication her Office subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215665]

Helen Goodman: None.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms exist to ensure that local authorities provide an adequate number of allotments. [213890]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide sufficient allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Furthermore "Planning Policy Guidance, Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002" encourages local authorities to ensure that they provide an adequate number of allotments for their community and ascertain what is sufficient for their local area. The accompanying guidance to PPG 17 advises local authorities on setting local standards.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to ask local authorities for information on local quality and quantity provision standards for allotments as referred to in Planning and Policy Guidance Note 17 [213891]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State does not have any plans to ask local authorities for information on the standards of provision for allotments. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17(PPG17) encourages local authorities to assess the existing and future needs of their communities for open spaces more generally and, where appropriate, address deficiencies. It also states that authorities should allocate sites within their plans for the provision of new open spaces. PPG 17 advises local authorities to use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities in their areas.

Allotments: Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make exceptional funding available for the provision of allotments. [213887]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for allotments is available through the financial support that all local authorities receive from central Government. It is up to local authorities to ensure that adequate funding is in place for allotments according to their local needs.

Caravan Sites: Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on travelling people: council tax, for what minimum period a caravan must be used as a residence before the Valuation Office Agency will consider that caravan to be a dwelling liable for council tax. [213578]

John Healey: No minimum period is defined by statute. It is established rating law, applicable to council tax, that a transitory occupation of land does not amount to rateable occupation. Whether the necessary permanence of occupation has been established for liability to arise will depend on the facts in each case

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have held local forums on tackling extremism and Islamophobia referred to in the Preventing Violent Extremism report published in April 2007. [212935]

Mr. Dhanda: There are 16 forums against extremism and Islamophobia established and meeting, in the following local authority areas:

Redbridge
Leicester
Peterborough
Reading
High Wycombe
Craven
Kirklees
Blackburn
East Lancs (Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Preston)
Dudley
Bristol
West London Alliance (Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow)
Derby
Newcastle
Kensington and Chelsea
Enfield

Many local authorities have chosen alternative means to achieve the objective of engaging local communities in their work to tackle violent extremism locally. For example, the Southwark Parents Forum, the Government Office South West regional forum, Leeds' Muslim Youth Forum, Haringey's Women's Forum, and Croydon's Forum for Young People.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2161W, on community relations, how many peers have been accredited to work with local authorities on the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda; who the peers are; which local authorities they have visited to date; which local authorities they plan to visit in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [212963]

Mr. Dhanda: So far 30 peer mentors have been accredited and trained by the Improvement and Development Agency to work with local authorities on Preventing Violent Extremism. They are:

Javed Khan
Robin Tuddenham
Elaine Jewell
Sabin Malik
Michael Keating
Julie Pal
Mike Waite
Shaista Gohir
Catherine Falvey
Mashuq Ally
Nina Rahel
Farooq Siddique
Shahda Khan
Lee Harrison
Hanif Malik
Haras Rafiq
Riaz Ahmad
Cllr Helal Uddin Abbas
Cllr Mahroof Hussain
Cllr Nargis Khan
Cllr Fiyaz Mughal
Cllr Mohammed Pervez
Cllr Marie Pye
Cllr Sirajul Islam
Cllr Paul Sargent
Cllr Jean Stretton
Cllr Margaret Eaton
Cllr Howard Sykes
Cllr Clyde Loakes
Cllr Ayaz Siddique

On 18 June the Improvement and Development Agency concluded a pilot review of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. Following this, peer mentors will undertake pilot reviews of two local authorities in

July—we will be selecting and notifying these authorities shortly. The peer mentors will conduct a further four reviews by April 2009.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has published the best practice for different types of areas document referred to in her letter of 6 October 2007 to the Chairman of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, Darra Singh. [214767]

Mr. Dhanda: We plan to publish the first part of a cohesion delivery framework this summer. This will set out how local areas can build an understanding of the key issues for cohesion in their area and develop an action plan to reflect this local understanding. We are working with the Institute for Community Cohesion to make best practice on cohesion available on a searchable database. This will also be launched shortly.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has set up the web-based One Stop Shop on Cohesion referred to in her letter of 6 October 2007 to the Chairman of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, Darra Singh. [214768]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government is supporting the Institute of Community Cohesion to implement a web-based one stop shop on cohesion, the first phase of which is due for launch at the end of July 2008. This will be an important resource for local authorities and partners as they build, and maintain, cohesive communities.

Council Housing: Sales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the first unit of council housing was sold under the Housing Act 1980. [214453]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is not possible to identify whether the information requested is available or indeed was ever recorded without incurring disproportionate expense.

Chapter 1 of part 1 of the Housing Act 1980 (the right to buy) came into force on 8 October 1980. Between that date and 31 March 1981, 2,328 properties were sold under the scheme in England and 307 in Wales, a total of 2,635 properties.

County Councils: Marketing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each county council spent on communications and marketing in the last year for which figures are available. [213916]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who each of her Department's preferred contractors is. [213538]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not have any preferred suppliers because this would conflict with our obligation to procure in a non-discriminatory manner.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department are authorised to work from home. [212529]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has no central record of requests to work from home as these arrangements are made by local agreement between individual staff and their line manager. Collection of this information from individual line managers would be at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to improving work/life balance. It values diversity and tries to accommodate different work patterns including the use of home working where operational/business constraints permit.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many jobs her Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213391]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have a target to relocate 240 full-time equivalent posts out of London and the greater south east by 2010.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in her Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212493]

Mr. Dhanda: The average pay per hour worked by permanent and temporary staff in the Department is shown in the following table (shown to two decimal places).

	Average pay per hour	
Pay band	*Permanent staff (£)*	*Temporary staff (£)*
PBEM1	8.53	7.77
PBEM2	9.23	n/a
PBEM3	11.50	n/a
Pay Band 1	10.00	10.02
Pay Band 2	12.67	11.86
Pay Band 3	14.56	14.09
Pay Band 4	16.32	15.22
Pay Band 5	20.11	18.58
Pay Band 6	25.46	24.52
Pay Band 7	31.88	32.55
SCS Pay Band 1	31.27	38.18
SCS Pay Band 2	46.95	51.00
SCS Pay Band 3	65.33	72.23

The Department's hourly rate is calculated as annual salary (plus reckonable allowances) divided by 52 (weeks) multiplied by the net weekly conditioned hours. For the purposes of this answer, temporary staff have been defined as those employees who are directly employed by the Department for fixed period of time.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [213686]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. The information that follows therefore includes both CLG and its predecessor Department ODPM.

In relation to expenditure on new furnishings, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W.

The Department has not incurred any expenditure on works of art. Those works displayed within HQ buildings are on loan from the Government Art Collection.

In relation to expenditure on new vehicles, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures her Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if she will make a statement. [213137]

Mr. Dhanda: All new entrants to the Department are required to complete a Baseline Security Standard Criminal Record Declaration Form. The Department is registered with Disclosure Scotland to carry out one in five criminal record checks on our behalf and we are working towards carrying out 100 per cent. checks.

100 per cent. checks are carried out on employees in posts where national security vetting is applied.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in her Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if she will make a statement. [213157]

Mr. Dhanda: All new entrants to the Department are required to complete a Baseline Security Standard Criminal Record Declaration Form. The Department registered with Disclosure Scotland on 20 May 2008 to carry out random one in five criminal record checks on our behalf and we are working towards carrying out 100 per cent. checks. 100 per cent. checks are carried out on employees in posts where national security vetting is applied.

Information on numbers of successful candidates, criminal record checks and applicants found to have a criminal record in the past 10 years is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Disadvantaged: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Chorley borough council entered into partnership with NCH for delivery of the vulnerable families scheme; and what progress has been made in identifying vulnerable families in the Chorley area under the scheme. [214203]

Mr. Dhanda: The Vulnerable Households project is run in partnership between Chorley and South Ribble LSPs (Local Strategic Partnerships). It moved into partnership with NCH during the development phase of the project at the outset the 2007-08 financial year.

The project is currently moving into its second phase of development which is focused on identifying families for support, with the intention to identify 15 families in Chorley and another 15 in South Ribble. These families are being selected using Common Assessment Framework (CAF) methodology based on their impact on local communities and the demands which they are currently placing on public services.

Eco-towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the proposed eco-town bids involve development of *(a)* open fields and *(b)* woodland. [212729]

Caroline Flint: Summary descriptions for each of the shortlisted eco-towns locations are set out in the consultation document, Eco-towns—Living a greener future, and further information about the schemes, including the site are available through the Department's website. Many of the shortlisted bids make significant use of previously developed (brownfield) land. However, in some cases development on greenfield land may be appropriate.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will be providing ecological expertise and advice to the panel assessing eco-town proposals. [213614]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: The members of the Eco-towns Challenge were announced by press releases on 9 April and 19 May. They have expertise in sustainable development, design, environment, green living and energy and their role is to work with bidders to help them develop and improve their plans. Feedback from the panel's first round of meetings has been published on my Department's website and shows that they are challenging bidders on biodiversity and green infrastructure where they think this is an issue with the scheme.

Eco-towns Challenge Panel: Business Interests

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 38W, on the Eco-towns Challenge Panel: political impartiality, whether the members of the panel are required to declare other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. [212667]

Caroline Flint: All members of the Eco-towns Challenge Panel were asked to declare pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in the shortlisted locations ahead of their participation. The panel will work with bidders to help them develop and improve their plans and have no responsibility for assessing proposals—this will be the responsibility of Government, and Ministers will make the final decision on locations with potential to go forward as eco-towns.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the successful eco-town bidders to be announced. [212675]

Caroline Flint: Following further consultation and assessment over the summer we expect to announce the final shortlist of locations with potential to go forward as an eco-town later in the year. Schemes will then need to be taken forward into the local planning process, where they will undergo further testing and consultation.

Emergency Services: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to emergency planning departments on the provision of fuel to essential users during times of shortage. [211519]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Contingency plans are in place at local level to deal with fuel shortages resulting from events such as industrial action. The National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F) provides guidance to those responsible for emergency planning on the provision of fuel to essential users such as the emergency services and other essential service providers in the event of a significant disruption to fuel supplies.

Empty Properties: Charities

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether charities which own property that they lease or rent out, but do not occupy for charitable work, are liable for empty property rates when that property is empty. [213535]

John Healey: Where the liable ratepayer of an empty property is a charity the property will be exempt from empty property rates if it appears that when next in use the property will be wholly or mainly used for a charitable purpose.

Fire Service College

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the job specification of the Chief Executive of the Fire Service College is. [213825]

Mr. Dhanda: The role and responsibilities of the chief executive of the Fire Service College are as set out in the 2005 Framework Document. The chief executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the agency, its overall performance and the efficiencies of its operations. As the accounting officer for the college's Trading Fund, the chief executive is responsible for ensuring that proper procedures are followed for securing the propriety and regularity of the public funds for which he or she is responsible.

Fire Service College: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's medium-term financial strategy for the Fire Service College. [213824]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's medium-term financial strategy for the Fire Service College is to ensure that it can consistently fulfil its obligations as a trading fund to cover its costs and achieve a return of 4 per cent. on capital employed. The Department is working with the college to achieve this.

Fire Service College: Recruitment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the position of Chief Executive of the Fire Service College was first advertised. [213826]

Mr. Dhanda: The position of chief executive of the Fire Service College has not yet been advertised. Sally Sheen, currently director of Training Delivery and deputy chief executive, has been appointed acting chief executive and accounting officer for the Fire Service College Trading Fund with effect from 1 July 2008.

Fire Service College: Resignations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date her Department received the resignation of the Chief Executive of the Fire Service College. [213827]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not release personal information about individual members of staff. It is a matter of public record that on 30 May the current chief executive announced that she would be retiring from the college at the end of June.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to make home condition reports a compulsory component of home information packs. [213892]

Caroline Flint: The Home Condition Report remains a valuable element of the Home Information Pack. The Government will continue to work with stakeholders to make a success of the voluntary uptake of the HCR. The mandatory option has not been ruled out should this voluntary approach not work.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of current housing market conditions on meeting the Government's house building targets. [213923]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 497W.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements of the Code for Sustainable Housing will apply to homes in eco-towns; and if she will make a statement. [213466]

Caroline Flint: One of the key criteria for eco-towns is that the development as a whole should reach zero carbon standards, be planned in a way which supports low carbon living and incorporates high standards of water efficiency. As we set out in the "Eco-towns Prospectus", schemes should use the "Code for Sustainable Homes" as a guide on sustainability issues and in "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we have set out how eco-towns could achieve higher standards in these areas.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the new home developments planned in eco-towns are to be incorporated into (*a*) regional spatial strategies and (*b*) local development frameworks. [213479]

Caroline Flint: The way in which housing developed as part of the eco-towns programme contributes to regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks is set out in the consultation document, "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", in particular in Annex A, paragraph 6.

INTERREG Programme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to designate a body under the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation provisions. [213536]

Mr. Dhanda: Under the European Communities Regulation on the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation (EGTC) and the UK 2007 regulations giving full effect to the European regulations, the initiative to participate in such a grouping lies with those bodies intending such participation. The regulations provide that any body wishing to become a member of such a grouping must first seek approval from the appropriate authority, which in the case of bodies formed under UK law is currently the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Local Authorities: Closed Circuit Television

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of CCTV systems to monitor members of the public. [213659]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has given no guidance to local authorities on the use of CCTV systems to monitor members of the public. Policy responsibility for this area lies with Home Office. CCTV operated by local authorities is covered by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Local Authorities: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to collect information and to report annually on local authority expenditure on consultancy services. [214315]

Mr. Dhanda: No.

Local Authorities: Political Parties

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what (*a*) duties and (*b*) powers she has to intervene where a political grouping within a local authority is subject to influence by extremists. [214417]

Mr. Dhanda: "Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring" published last month reflects the reality that there are individuals and organisations in society, whose activities, motivated by extremist views, may have a negative impact on local community relations.

All local authority members must observe the Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members ("the Code"), which prescribes the standards of conduct expected of members and co-opted members of local authorities in England. The Code includes provisions, for instance, which provide that members must treat others with respect, must not do anything which may cause their authority to breach any equality enactments and must not conduct themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute.

Anyone who has concerns that a local authority member has breached the provisions of the Code may make a written allegation to their local authority's standards committee. Standards committees will consider such allegations and, in all but the most serious of cases, reach determinations and where appropriate impose a sanction.

Standards committees are independent of central Government and the Secretary of State has no powers to intervene in their consideration of allegations. The conduct regime is overseen by a NDPB called the Standards Board for England, who issues guidance and monitors the work of local authority standards committees.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the report produced for her Department by Comtel Ltd on the review of the local finance team structure. [212724]

Mr. Dhanda: A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

Please note that due to an error in the reply to the hon. Member's question on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 263W, the wrong supplier has been attributed as the producer of this report. I can confirm that this contract was awarded to Alsbridge Ltd, though the report itself was prepared by Hitachi Consulting who are a registered subcontractor to Alsbridge on the OGC Buying Solutions Catalist Framework.

Local Government Finance: Regional Spatial Strategies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the housing targets set out in regional spatial strategies play in determining the level of revenue support grant for a local authority. [213465]

John Healey: None.

Official Hospitality: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1089W, on official hospitality: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, what the date was of the Chinese Ambassador's visit to Mr. Chu's China Palace with the then Deputy Prime Minister. [213576]

Mr. Dhanda: 2 April 2004.

Planning Permission: Gardens

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers councils have to, *(a)* create a policy in their Local Development Framework and *(b)* issue Supplementary Planning guidance, that (i) protects gardens from over-development and (ii) separates gardens from other types of brownfield land for the purposes of meeting brownfield development targets. [212733]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities have always had the power to turn down applications for inappropriate housing development in back gardens and new planning policies in Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) that came into force in April 2007 have strengthened those powers further.

Local authorities have powers under Part II of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to prepare local development documents, and in doing so must have regard to national policies issued by the Secretary of State. Through PPS3, councils have now been given the ability to set local policies that specifically protect gardens and separate gardens out from their wider brownfield development targets. For instance, they could choose to concentrate housing development on available vacant or derelict land rather than on previously-residential or garden land. They can set separate targets in their Local Development Framework for different kinds of brownfield land, to distinguish between residential sites and other kinds of brownfield land.

Regeneration: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 281W, on flood control: Canvey Island, what factors are impeding regeneration of Canvey Island. [212665]

Caroline Flint: Canvey Island is part of the Thames Gateway regeneration area and Castle Point borough council and Essex county council could receive grants, subject to satisfactory HM Treasury compliant appraisals, to deliver the Government's Thames Gateway objectives. These grants would support various regeneration objectives such as improving skills, employment opportunities, transport infrastructure, better public spaces and appropriate housing growth. This support would be in addition to the Government's primary mechanism for establishing local priorities for action, including regeneration priorities, which is through the negotiation of improvement targets set out in local area agreements. Negotiations of these targets are conducted between government offices for the regions and local and regional strategic partners from public, private and third sectors.

Regeneration: Merseyside

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Regeneration Framework being considered by her Department, what recent analysis of deprivation in *(a)* Merseyside, *(b)* Wirral and *(c)* Birkenhead she has completed; what steps she plans to take in light of the analysis; and if she will make a statement. [214400]

Mr. Dhanda: The Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) which were published on 6 December 2007 provide a deprivation score and rank for each area in England. Analysis of the ID 2007 has contributed to the Regeneration Framework which will be published for consultation in the summer.

Valuation Office: ICT

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to local authorities on producing electronic billing authority reports for the Valuation Office Agency. [213533]

John Healey: Guidance to the billing authorities is provided in the form of help pages on the e-BARs' secure internet website. I will place a copy of the guidance in the Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the XML specifications for a Valuation Office Agency electronic billing authority report. [213534]

John Healey: The XML schemas can be found at:

http://www.govtalk.gov.uk/schemasstandards/schemalibrary/schema.asp?schemaid=256

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Secondary School Standards

11. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of standards of teaching in secondary schools. [214260]

Jim Knight: Ofsted judges the effectiveness of teaching and learning as part of school inspection. The latest published figures from Ofsted covering the 2006-07 academic year show that teaching and learning were judged good or outstanding in 52 per cent. of secondary schools, and satisfactory or better in 95 per cent. There was a notable increase that year in the proportion of secondary schools where teaching and learning were found to be outstanding—up from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent.

Apprenticeships

13. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of apprenticeships for 16 and 17-year-olds. [214262]

19. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of apprenticeships for 16 and 17-year-olds. [214270]

Jim Knight: Our plans to improve the quality, and expand the number and range of apprenticeships available for young people were outlined in World-class Apprenticeships. We are introducing an entitlement to an apprenticeship place for all suitably qualified young people who want one and our ambition is that one in five of all young people will be an apprentice. The expansion of apprenticeships will support our plan to raise the participation age in learning.

Diplomas

14. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he next expects to meet representatives of the Confederation of British Industry and other business organisations to discuss diploma qualifications. [214263]

Jim Knight: We have regular discussions with the CBI and other business organisations. The CBI were involved in the Expert Advisory Group on Diplomas in Humanities, Languages and Science. There are 81 businesses represented on the first 14 Diploma Development Partnerships (DDPs) others are being engaged as the three new DDPs are established. The change in curriculum that Diplomas represent, will help meet the business challenges of the global economy of the 21st century.

Bullying

16. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of bullying of children with disabilities and special educational needs. [214267]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given earlier to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone).

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of bullying of children with disabilities and special educational needs. [214264]

Kevin Brennan: We have produced tailored guidance which provides schools with comprehensive advice on how to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Heads and governors have statutory duties to prevent the bullying of these children which are outlined in the guidance. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to provide support and challenge for local authorities and schools to ensure the guidance is implemented effectively on the ground.

Child Care

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the level of charges for the inspection of child care facilities. [214268]

Beverley Hughes: We have listened carefully to the views of all those who responded to the fees and subsidies consultation and have published our response on Thursday 19 June 2008. In our response, we have made it clear that the fee levels will be held to modest increments over the coming years and a fairer system of fee banding introduced from September 2008. We intend to review the fee levels for 2011 and beyond in 2009-10.

GCSE

18. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the socio-economic characteristics of the catchment areas of schools achieving 30 per cent. or fewer GCSEs at grades A* to C. [214269]

Jim Knight: Most National Challenge schools serve areas where pupils are more likely than average to come from deprived backgrounds—for example as shown by eligibility for free school meals. Nonetheless, since there are many schools in similarly adverse socio-economic conditions where more than 30 per cent. of students gain five or more higher level GCSEs including English and mathematics, local deprivation should not be seen as an excuse for low achievement, but important content in assessing the level of support needed to improve academic standards.

NEETs

20. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people under 18 years old were not in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available. [214271]

Ed Balls: The latest figures show that 97,000 young people aged 16 and 17 were not in education, employment or training at the end of 2007. This represents a reduction of 12,600 young people from the end of 2006.

Pupil Funding

21. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding was provided per pupil for schools in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how much will be provided in 2008-09. [214272]

Jim Knight: Per pupil revenue funding for schools in 2007-08 was £4,730, or £5,520 when capital funding is included. The planned spend for 2008-09 is £5,150, or £6,030 with capital funding included. Figures are in cash terms.

Literacy

22. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the literacy goals for the early years foundation stage. [214273]

Beverley Hughes: I have had many discussions, and received a range of representations on, the early learning goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The early learning goals are developmental milestones for children at the end of the EYFS, most of whom are aged five and over. The very strong consensus is that the majority of the goals are pitched appropriately, but some representations have questioned two specific goals on aspects of early literacy.

The fact is that around a third of children already achieve those two goals, and evidence shows that children who develop well in the Foundation Stage go on to do well in primary school. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement tabled today by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, which announces that Sir Jim Rose has agreed to consider these two goals and in particular how we can make sure that the early learning goals for literacy set the right foundation for transition into the new primary school arrangements.

Free School Meals

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the report produced by Hull university on free school meals. [214256]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend, Alan Johnson, and I, met recently with the researchers who evaluated the Hull Eat Well Do Well initiative to discuss their findings on school meals and the other aspects of their pilot which involved a range of approaches to improving how children ate, at home as well as in school. We have followed the pilot closely, and found it extremely interesting to discuss the details.

Child Development Grant

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of piloting the Child Development Grant of £200 for parents in 10 local authorities. [215011]

Kevin Brennan: The estimated overall cost of piloting the Child Development Grant is £12.75 million over three years.

Children: Day Care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what information his Department collects on the adequacy of childcare provision; if his Department will publish that information; and if he will make a statement; [214333]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of childcare provision in each local authority area in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [214334]

Beverley Hughes: In May 2008 the Department published the "2007 Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents" available online via the following link:

www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR025A.pdf

which offers a view of the extent of child care provision and parental demand nationally.

The sufficiency of child care provision can, however, only be assessed effectively on a local basis. As required by the Childcare Act 2006, all 150 top tier local authorities have recently completed and published their own child care sufficiency assessments analysing the extent of the provision of, and demand for, child care within their area, and any resultant sufficiency gaps.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the maximum number of children is that can be looked after by a qualified childminder in a single setting; how many qualified childminders are permitted to work in the same setting; what procedures exist to ensure that the size of a building is suitable for the number of children being looked after; what other factors are taken into account when assessing the suitability of a childminder setting; and if he will make a statement. [214335]

Beverley Hughes: The current requirements for Ofsted registered child minders are set out in the "National standards for under eights day care and childminding". These provide that, depending on the space available and the suitability of premises, each child minder may care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight, of whom no more than three children may be under the age of five. There is no limit to how many child minders can work in one setting. However, child minders are required to follow specific space requirements for the age and number of children being looked after and ensure that their premises are suitable for their purpose. From this September similar requirements will be carried forward in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for the 0 to five age range. However, where more than three child minders (including assistants) work together in a single setting they must be registered with Ofsted as "other child care" and will be required to follow the same requirements as nurseries.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of nursery places for *(a)* one year olds, *(b)* two year olds and *(c)* three to five year olds in (i) the maintained and (ii) the independent sector; and if he will make a statement; [214364]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of surplus nursery places for *(a)* under three olds and *(b)* three to five year olds; and if he will make a statement. [214365]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the number of child care and early years places. However, respondents are not asked what places they have available for children of specific ages. Table 1 shows the estimated number of child care places by ownership of the provision in 2006.

Table 1: Number of registered places, by ownership, 2006

	Full day care	*(Full day care in children's centres)*	*Sessional*	*After school clubs*	*Holiday clubs*	*Child minders*	*Nursery schools*	*Primary schools with nursery and reception classes*	*Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes*
Total number of places	544,200	(37,700)	278,300	260,100	263,900	272,600	28,100	477,300	286,100
Private, voluntary and independent	477,900	(14,300)	265,700	200,500	181,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private	379,400	(7,000)	83,000	90,100	97,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Voluntary	99,700	(7,400)	183,500	110,700	83,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maintained	54,300	(21,900)	12,800	55,300	71,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local authority	30,600	(18,800)	9,600	31,400	56,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
School/ college	24,000	(3,300)	3,200	25,300	14,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other	14,500	(1,700)	700	3,500	12,400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: 1. Places in full day care in children's centres are a subgroup of places in full day care; these places are also included in the 'Full day care' column of the table. 2. Places in early years provision in maintained schools are all run by local authorities.

The estimated number of vacancies in child care and early years providers in 2006 are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of vacancies for children, 2006

	Number
Full day care	81,000
(Full day care in children's centres)	(6,600)
Sessional	29,300
After school clubs	58,400
Holiday clubs	76,700
Child minders	67,000
Nursery schools	2,000
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	45,800
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	42,900

Note:
1. Places in full day care in children's centres are a subgroup of places in full day care; these places are also included in the 'Full day care' column of the table.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost to local authorities of funding a childminding network in the latest period for which figures are available. [214814]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department encourages the establishment of childminding networks but it is for local authorities to decide whether or not to fund them, and to what extent, based upon prevailing priorities for securing sufficient child care as informed by their child care sufficiency assessments.

Children' Centres

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has received from local authorities on their consultation and co-operation with local providers in delivering Sure Start children's centres from 2007-08 onwards; from which local authorities that information has come; if his Department will publish it; and if he will make a statement. [214332]

Beverley Hughes: The Planning guidance for Sure Start Children's Centres encourages local authorities to involve voluntary, private and independent organisations both in the planning and delivery of children's centre services.

We do not collect information centrally on how local authorities undertake such consultation or how many of them use PVI organisations to provide services. However a survey of around 1,100 children's centres last year showed that 74 per cent. of children's centres had contracts with voluntary sector organisations to provide services and 57 per cent. were using a private sector organisation to provide child care services. We plan to run a further survey later this year and will publish the results of this when they are available.

Class Sizes: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in *(a)* youth offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres is. [214622]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. However contracts and costs for education in young offender institutions are based on class sizes of eight. The Youth Justice Board report that in secure training centres, young people are generally educated in groups of between five and eight.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212877]

Kevin Brennan: Net book value of the property held by the Department at 31 March 2008, £49,913,000.

Net book value of the property held by the Department's associated public bodies at 31 March 2008, £3,420,042.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213395]

Kevin Brennan: The former Department for Education and Skills committed to meet its Lyons Review target to relocate out of London and the South East around 800 posts from its own organisation and its partner organisations by 2010. Following Machinery of Government changes in June 2007, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) inherited a commitment to relocate out of London and the South East around 760 posts from its own organisation and its partner bodies by 2010.

At the end of March 2008, 626 posts had been relocated out of London and the South East by my Department and its partner organisations, since monitoring began in April 2004. My Department is working with our partners, including the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the Training and Development Agency for Schools, to continue to deliver further relocations of posts. We expect to meet and exceed the target.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pilot projects initiated by his Department and its predecessor in the last two years have not proceeded to further roll-out. [211848]

Kevin Brennan: The policy initiatives that we pilot allow us to work in close partnership with local leaders and key partners to test and develop options that inform our decisions on wider implementation. It generally takes up to three years to rigorously test and evaluate a pilot initiative before deciding on the best model to roll out across the country. As such, I am unable to say at this point how many of the schemes initiated in the last two years will progress to a full national roll-out.

For further information on the pilot schemes that my Department sponsors I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 821W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213138]

Kevin Brennan: All individuals recruited to the Department are subject to a basic criminal records check. As part of the application process individuals complete a self-declaration of their criminal records.

In line with the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard the Department undertakes a full independent check of unspent criminal records for all successful applicants, who are not in a regulated post.

In addition to the Baseline Security checks, all individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, have been subject to, or are currently undergoing, enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, as a matter of course.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [210881]

Kevin Brennan: The DCSF Euro Changeover Plan is currently being reviewed and updated to take account of the Machinery of Government change in June 2007 and changes in the delivery of corporate systems over the next nine to 12 months. A copy of the completed document will be placed in the Library when this work is completed. The Department has no agencies.

GCE A-Level: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average A-Level point score was for pupils at schools in the London Borough of Bexley in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 1998 and *(c)* 2007. [215053]

Jim Knight: The point scores used in 1997 and 1998 are not comparable with scores from 2007.

In 1997 and 1998, average point scores were calculated by assigning GCE A level grades A to E 10 to 2 points respectively and GCE AS grades A to E 5 to 1 respectively.

	Average point score per student		*Average point score per entry*	
	1997	*1998*	*1997*	*1998*
Bexley	15.9	16.0	5.7	5.1
England	17.3	17.8	5.3	5.4

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) entered into two or more A levels.
2. Figures relate to students in maintained schools and colleges.

In 2006 a new point score system designed to take into account the new range of Level 3 equivalencies was created by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Details on approved qualifications and their point scores can be found at:

http://www.ndaq.org.uk

	Average point score per student		*Average point score per entry*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Bexley	700.5	737.6	198.7	206.6
England	700.9	711.2	202.2	203.6

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) entered into an A level or Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to at least one A level.
2. Figures relate to students in maintained schools and colleges.

Parents: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the parenting skills of vulnerable adults; [213971]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to provide support for children whose parents are in prison; [213974]

(3) what recent steps the Government have taken in partnership with third sector organisations to improve parenting skills. [213975]

Beverley Hughes: We have significantly increased funding (over £120 million for 2008-11) for targeted initiatives to support families with high levels of need, with a particular focus on parenting skills. These include Family Intervention Projects, the Parenting Early Intervention Programme, Respect Parenting Practitioners and funding for at least one new Parenting Expert in every local authority to provide evidence-based parenting programmes for parents of children who are considered to be at risk or those parents with problems that are known to put their children at risk.

This is supported by an investment of £30 million to enable the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners, which was set up in November 2007, to develop the parenting workforce in Sure Start Children's Centres, schools and other local settings in both the statutory and third sectors. The Academy is providing training and support to increase the number of practitioners who can deliver evidence-based parenting programmes, particularly to vulnerable parents. They are also working closely with other third sector organisations to improve the availability and quality of parenting support across England.

We fund a range of third sector organisations through the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant programme, the Parenting Fund and the Parent Know How Programme to provide support services to parents and families, including help with their parenting skills. This includes structured parenting programmes, support groups, counselling and helplines. Parenting services for some of the country's most vulnerable, including teenage parents, disabled parents and families facing break up are to get a share of up to £8 million in 2008-09 through the Parenting Fund.

In January, we published the joint priority review on the children of offenders with the Ministry of Justice. This includes commitments to explore ways in which the National Offender Management Service and children's services can assess and meet a child's needs when a parent goes to prison; and to set clear and achievable expectations of offender managers and local partners to improve support for these families.

We have highlighted the families of offenders as being a priority group to local authorities in their work to decide where to target DCSF-funded parenting and family support. A recent communication on the remit for the new Parenting Experts highlighted parents who are offenders (including those in prison).

Primary Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children achieved the national standard in each Key Stage 1 examination in each year for which figures are available. [214396]

Jim Knight: The number and percentage of key stage 1 pupils achieving level 2 or above is given as follows:

	Mathematics		*Reading*		*Writing*		*Science*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1995	79	470,733	78	466,536	80	477,305		
1996	82	491,493	78	464,613	79	474,641		
1997	84	512,710	80	489,518	80	490,220		
1998	84	529,029	80	500,824	81	507,849		
1999	87	544,042	82	513,012	83	519,641		

	Mathematics		*Reading*		*Writing*		*Science*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000	90	542,878	83	504,624	84	511,039		
2001	91	546,054	84	505,694	86	515,812		
2002	90	531,880	84	495,660	86	506,122		
2003	90	523,317	84	487,942	81	470,988		
2004[1]	90	531,505	85	499,050	82	480,906		
2005[2]	91	517,999	85	484,803	82	469,169	90	510,523
2006	90	507,340	84	474,514	81	457,285	89	501,429
2007	90	491,352	84	457,904	80	439,007	89	485,774

[1] The figures for 2004 are derived from combining task/test results for non trial schools and teacher assessment results for trial schools.

[2] Due to a change in policy the figures for 2005 onwards are taken from teacher assessment results.

Notes

1. Prior to 2004, results of pupils in tasks/tests at key stage 1 were reported alongside teacher assessments.
2. In 2004, new assessment arrangements where only teacher assessments (informed by task/test results) were reported were trialled in some LAs. In 2005 this trial was rolled out to all LAs and from 2005 to date teacher assessments, informed by the outcomes of national tasks and tests are reported. As a result, figures for results from 2004 onwards are not directly comparable with those prior to 2004, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

Pupil Exclusions: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were excluded from each Milton Keynes school in each year since 1997. [214921]

Kevin Brennan: All of the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Tables showing the number and percentage of permanent exclusions for a selection of years within the requested timeframe have been placed in the Library. The information relates to schools in Milton Keynes local authority area in 1997/98, 2000/01, 2003/04 and 2005/06.

School level exclusions data relating to 2006/07 school year will be available from 10 July 2008 (when local authority level figures are published).

Schools: Berwick-upon-Tweed

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will visit Berwick-upon-Tweed to discuss spending on schools in the area. [214265]

Jim Knight: DCSF Ministers receive many invitations to visit schools across the country to discuss their individual circumstances and issues. While it is not possible to accept all of these, Ministers do look carefully at the issues in question and diary commitments when considering each invitation. I therefore ask the hon. Member to contact my office with details of the proposed visit and the issues he would like to discuss, to allow proper consideration of his invitation.

Schools: Sports

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at what proportion of secondary schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London local authority area pupils played (i) four hours or more sport a week and (ii) competitive inter-school sport in 2006-07. [214316]

Kevin Brennan: The annual school sport survey collects data relating to participation in PE and sport by five to 16-year-olds in England. This enables us to measure progress towards our PSA target to have at least 85 per cent. of pupils doing at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week by September 2008. Currently, 86 per cent. of young people are doing the two hours. The survey does not collect data relating to the proportion of secondary schools in which pupils participate in four hours or more of sport each week.

The most recent survey found that 31 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds in England currently participate in inter school sporting competition. The figure for all London local authorities is also 31 per cent. Copies of the results of the survey can be found in the Libraries of both Houses.

From next year, progress towards our new target of five hours of sport for young people will be measured by a range of means including: the annual school sport survey; extensive face to face interviews with young people; and Sport England's Active People survey.

Schools: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many staff vacancies in all primary and secondary schools in *(a)* Basingstoke and *(b)* Hampshire there were in each year for which figures are available; [214398]

(2) what the average number of staff vacancies in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England was in each year for which figures are available. [214399]

Jim Knight: The number of vacancies for all staff in primary and secondary schools is not collected centrally.

Information is available for teacher vacancies for individual local authorities but not by constituency. The following table provides the number of full-time vacancies in Hampshire local authority and England and the average of these for each year where figures are available.

Full-time vacancies[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools, January of each year. Coverage: England and Hampshire local authority, 1994 to 2008

	Hampshire LA		England	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
1994	[2]	[2]	769	628
1995	[2]	[2]	793	517
1996	[2]	[2]	861	587
1997	[2]	[2]	1,088	726
1998	38	19	1,390	970
1999	36	57	1,370	940
2000	89	53	1,420	1,250
2001	82	85	2,110	2,590
2002	31	40	1,796	2,447
2003	27	47	1,114	2,050
2004	11	19	778	1,627
2005	5	26	743	1,553
2006	4	25	709	1,340
2007	7	21	658	1,214
2008[3]	[4]	[4]	872	1,471
Average vacancies	33	39	1,098	1,327

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one terms duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

[2] Not applicable: Local government re-organisation in April 1998 means that comparable figures are not available for these years.

[3] Provisional.

[4] Not available.

Source:

Annual survey of teachers in service and teachers vacancies, 618g.

Teachers: Immigrants

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many language schools have been found to be in breach of the immigration rules relating to qualified language teachers in the last two years; what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* median time was that such a school remained on the Register of Education and Training Providers while working towards compliance with the rules in (i) London and (ii) Manchester; and if he will make a statement; [208659]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 208659 tabled by the hon. Member for Manchester Central on 2 June 2008 for answer on 5 June; and what the reason is for the time taken to respond. [213260]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 5 June and 23 June 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The original question has been passed to me to reply to as the Minister responsible for matters relating to immigration at the Home Office.

I apologise for the delay in providing this reply.

Since the inception of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Register of Education and Training Providers (RETP) on 1 January 2005, UK Border Agency compliance visits have resulted in the removal of 143 providers from the register on the basis that they were not bona fide for the purposes of the immigration rules. Applications for visas and further leave to remain from students wishing to study at these colleges have since been refused.

I am afraid that UKBA does not keep records which can identify the specific type of educational establishment found to be in breach of the immigration rules. I regret that I am unable, therefore, to let you know how many of the 143 were language schools.

The introduction of the new Points Based System means that colleges will soon need to apply direct to UKBA for a Licence to bring in non-EEA students. No Licences will be issued to colleges that are not independently accredited. Use of the Licences, once issued, will be rigorously policed.

Truancy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to tackle truancy through parental action. [213972]

Kevin Brennan: My Department focuses on reducing all unnecessary absences from schools. Overall absence rates have been substantially lower than the 1996-97 rate of 7.23 per cent. in all but two of the last nine years for which full data are available and in 2006-07 stood at a record low level of 6.49 per cent. Our focus on supporting schools with the highest levels of persistent absence has resulted in those schools achieving an average reduction in the number of persistent absentees of over 25 per cent.

We have worked with local authorities to promote the importance of good school attendance to parents and discourage parents from keeping their children out of school unnecessarily. Working with Becta, we have also assisted schools' use of modern technology to contact absentees' parents.

We expanded the measures to tackle poor attendance through parental action in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. These provisions came into force in February 2004 and provided a balanced package of support (parenting contracts) and sanctions (penalty notices) to parents in order to engage them and to reinforce parental responsibility for their children's regular school attendance—adding to the options of prosecution and parenting orders which had been previously available to local authorities.

All 150 local authorities have used at least one of the measures to address and improve school attendance problems.

An independent research report published in March 2008 showed that 80 per cent. of local authorities using parenting contracts agreed with parents had found them to be successful in reducing poor attendance levels in schools.

Data on parental responsibility measures for attendance are provided at local authority level and are published at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/otherinitiatives/Data.cfm

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Armed Forces

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many military apprenticeships were *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed in North Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [213991]

Mr. Lammy: The number of military apprentices which started and completed their apprenticeship in North Yorkshire in each of the last three years is given in the following table:

Academic year	*Total starts and completions*
2005/06	1,530
2006/07	1,524
2007/08	1,555
Total	4,609

Notes: 1. There are no RAF or Royal Navy Apprenticeships in North Yorkshire. 2. These figures are apprenticeships in the Army in North Yorkshire. 3. Training conducted at the Army Foundation College (Harrogate).

Dementia: Research

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 202W, on how much of the £6.4 million spent on research into dementia was spent in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [214412]

Ian Pearson: In 2006-07, the MRC spent approximately £6.4 million on research on dementias in the UK in the form of research grants and fellowships at UK universities and medical schools, and programmes within the MRC's own research units and institutes. The geographical breakdown of this expenditure was as follows:

Location in UK	*Spend in 2006-07 (£ million)*
England	5.5
Scotland	0.2
Wales	0.7
Northern Ireland	0

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213699]

Mr. Lammy: Since its creation in June 2007, DIUS had one refurbishment only—of Kingsgate House in London—carried out in its behalf (by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which supplies us with estates services). A Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment was not carried out because the project principally comprised a strip out of existing floors and creation of newly-configured office space and did not involve stripping the building back to its core, nor overhauling the main building plant. The work did, however, include environmentally-friendly changes like the installation of motion-sensitive lighting.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in each year since its establishment. [213742]

Mr. Lammy: This Department had one refurbishment project carried out (in 2007-08) on its behalf by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which supplies us with estates services, to enable London staff to be brought together into one building from the five separate sites on which they were based when the Department was created.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213131]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created in the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007 when staff from the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were incorporated into the new Department.

All individuals recruited to the Department and formerly the DTI are subject to a basic criminal-records check. As part of the application process individuals complete a self-declaration of their criminal records. In line with the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard the Department undertakes a random 20 per cent. basic criminal records check for those not in a regulated post.

In addition to the Baseline Security checks, all individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, have been subject to, or are currently undergoing, enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, as a matter of course.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213151]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created in the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007 when staff from the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were incorporated into the new Department.

All individuals recruited to the Department and the former DTI are subject to a basic criminal records check. As part of the application process individuals complete a self-declaration of their criminal records. In line with the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard the Department undertakes a random 20 per cent. basic criminal records check for those not in a regulated post.

The number, by year, of applicants who have been checked is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

In addition to the Baseline Security Checks, the Department completes Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for employees. All individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, are subject to a targeted enhanced CRB check.

Since the formation of this Department in 2007 no CRB checks have been carried out.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from each socio-economic category participated in higher education in each year since 1995. [209476]

Bill Rammell: Information is available on full-time young (aged 18-20) participation in higher education by socio-economic class. Table 1 shows the following:

1. The proportion of 18 to 20-year-olds from the top three socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;

2. The proportion of 18 to 20-year-olds from the bottom four socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;

3. The difference, or "gap", between these two rates.

Table 1 Full-time young participation by socio-economic class (FYPSEC)

Percentage

	Academic year				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Percentage from NS-SECs 1, 2 and 3	44.1	40.9	41.2	42.8	39.5
Percentage from NS-SECs 4, 5, 6 and 7	17.5	17.8	17.4	19.8	19.0
Difference	26.5	23.1	23.7	22.9	20.5

Source:
DIUS

The figures cover English-domiciled 18 to 20-year-olds who are studying for the first time at higher education level at UK higher education institutions or English further education colleges, who remain on their courses for at least six months.

2006-07 was an exceptional year in the higher education sector, due to the significant changes brought about by the introduction of variable fees and the new student support package. We expected, and saw, a drop in student numbers that year, following record numbers in the preceding year.

We are already seeing the position recover from 2006-07: according to UCAS figures, 307,000 applicants from England have been accepted for entry in 2007, a rise of 6 per cent. from 2006. This is the highest figure ever. Furthermore, the proportion of accepted applicants from England who are from the bottom four socio-economic classes increased from 31.7 per cent. in 2006 to 32.1 per cent. in 2007—the highest figure to date. And the latest applicant figures for 2008 entry show that applicants from England are again up by 6 per cent.

The Government remain committed to widening participation in higher education. It is an economic as well as a social imperative that everyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Widening participation is about spotting and nurturing talent, with schools, colleges and universities working together to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from higher education are able to do so.

Space Technology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government is taking to support space science. [213939]

Ian Pearson: The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) provides support for space science, and the UK research programme in space science is mainly delivered through the European Space Agency (ESA). The British National Space Centre co-ordinates civil space activity and has recently published the UK Civil Space Strategy 2008-12.

STFC provided £88.0 million in 2006-07 and £95.6 million in 2007-08 in support for space science. These figures do not include support for earth observation provided by the Natural Environment Research Council.

The support allows UK scientists to take the science lead and provide scientific instruments for international space missions designed to expand our knowledge of the universe. It also provides opportunities for the UK space industry to bid for industrial contracts.

Trade Associations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the numbers of spurious actions of the introduction of a right of representative action for trade associations. [211749]

Ian Pearson: The Department has made no such assessment.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency units have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213631]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. National health service trusts self-report the total number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department for the three types of A&E on a quarterly basis. This includes information on the number of self-reported type one (major) A&E services at national and strategic health authority level.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that emergency care services are provided that are responsive to people's needs. Changes to services are a matter for local, not central decision.

Anaesthetics

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many recorded cases there were of anaesthetic awareness in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [212779]

(2) what *(a)* support, *(b)* counselling, *(c)* information and *(d)* guidance is available to patients who experience post-traumatic stress disorder after experiencing anaesthetic awareness; [212780]

(3) what proportion of incident and accident forms were sent to the National Patient Safety Agency following cases of anaesthetic awareness in each of the last two years. [212781]

Ann Keen: Information about reported incidents of anaesthetic awareness available from the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) is contained in the following table:

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total number*
East Midlands SHA	1	0	2	3
East of England SHA	0	0	1	1
North East SHA	0	0	1	1
North West SHA	2	0	2	4
South Central SHA	0	1	1	2
South West SHA	1	0	0	1
Total	4	1	7	12

These numbers may under-represent the total number of incidents. All national health service organisations are asked to send details on all the patient safety related incidents that are reported to them via local risk management systems to the NPSA's NRLS. For the majority of organisations, these incidents can be automatically uploaded to the NRLS. In the most recent quarter 98 per cent. of incidents received by the NRLS were reported via this route. However, the NPSA is unable to confirm whether all relevant incidents reported locally to NHS organisations are subsequently reported to the NRLS.

The Royal College of Anaesthetists has published "Information for Patients: Risks Associated with your Anaesthetic", which was revised in June 2008. This informs patients that awareness during anaesthesia can occasionally happen, what steps are taken to prevent it and what to do if they think it has happened to them. Patients who report that they think they have been aware can expect that the hospital will ensure the anaesthetist is promptly informed; that the anaesthetist who conducted the anaesthetic will spend time with them and they may be offered further counselling. More information can be found at:

www.rcoa.ac.uk/index.asp?PageID=836

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of documents relating to the infection of haemophiliacs by contaminated blood products that were rediscovered by his Department have not been released to the Independent Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; under what provisions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 these documents have been withheld; and if he will make a statement. [214733]

Dawn Primarolo: Some 4,500 documents were discovered in unregistered files, and subsequently issued to Lord Archer's Inquiry and placed onto the Department's website.

In total 18 documents were withheld entirely, and 17 documents partly withheld, under the following exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act:

Exemption	*Document withheld*	*Part of document withheld*	*Total documents wholly or partly withheld*
Section 38—Health and Safety	1	9	10
Section 40—Personal information	3	6	9
Section 42—Legal professional privilege	8	1	9
Section 43—Commercial interests	6	1	7
Total	18	17	35

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of documents returned to his Department by Blackett, Hart and Pratt Solicitors have not been released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products; under what provisions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 these documents have been withheld; and if he will make a statement. [214734]

Dawn Primarolo: Of around 600 documents returned by the firm of private solicitors, one document has been withheld under Section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Cancer: Death

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the death rate from cancer is in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [213651]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the death rate from cancer is in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. (213651)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, for (i) Chorley local authority, (ii) Lancashire county and (iii) England, in 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population[1] [2], where cancer was the underlying cause of death[3], Chorley local authority, Lancashire county and England, 2006[4] [5]

	Rate per 100,000 persons	
Area	*Rate*	*95 per cent. confidence interval*
Chorley	179	(157-200)
Lancashire	177	(171-183)
England	176	(175-177)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.
[3] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.
[4] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[5] Figures are for deaths registered in 2006.

Cancer: Urinary System

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer networks *(a)* had and *(b)* had not implemented the Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers guidance as at December 2007. [214861]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South West Norfolk (Christopher Fraser) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1538-40W.

Community Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recipients of low-level care there were in England in each year since 1997. [166385]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on numbers of people receiving national health service-funded nursing care is not broken down into care bands. The total number of people receiving NHS-funded nursing care, at 31 March, are shown in the following table.

	Number
2003	58,751
2004	119,018
2005	125,573
2006	117,939
2007	123,452

Source:
Local Delivery Plan Return line 8226. The figures do not include estimates made for organisations that failed to submit data.

Dental Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population of (i) the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area, (ii) East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust area and (iii) England was registered with a dental practitioner in 2007. [213910]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist over the previous 24-month period, as a percentage of the population, in England, is available in table C2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007 report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007, and 31 December 2007. Information is provided for adults and children by strategic health authority and by primary care trust.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS dentists are required to provide a scale and polish under the Band 1 course of treatment. [214317]

Ann Keen: The national health service contractual requirement is for a dentist to provide all proper and necessary dental care and treatment that the patient is willing to undergo. A Band 1 course of treatment (diagnosis, treatment planning and maintenance) includes examination, diagnosis (for example X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and scaling and polishing if clinically needed.

Dental Services: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists were employed in the London Borough of Havering in each of the last three years. [214195]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service dentists on primary care trust (PCT) lists in England at 31 March, 1997 to 2006, is available in Annex of the report "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. The report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre (IC) for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of dentists with open NHS contracts in England at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07". This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and also on the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The work force data provided in the 2006-07 report are the latest available. Both reports were published by the IC.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding Havering Primary Care Trust received for NHS dental provision in each of the last three years. [214196]

Ann Keen: The primary dental service funding allocations made to Havering primary care trust (PCT) for each of the three years since PCTs assumed responsibility for commissioning all elements of primary dental care services on 1 April 2006, are set out in the following table. The table includes the Department's indicative assumptions in each year about dental charge income that might be paid by patients, and the indicative gross budget that might be available to the PCT.

Primary dental service funding allocations for Havering PCT

£000

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Net allocation	8,202	8,683	9,643
Indicative patient charge income	2,966	2,972	3,127
Indicative gross budget	11,168	11,655	12,770

Note: PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187656]

Mr. Bradshaw: Travel arrangements are made in the most efficient and cost effective way, and all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

In the 12-month period from January 2007 to December 2007, the Department and its agencies spent on first class travel:

	Cost (£)
Rail travel	2,309,291
Air travel	8,654

It is not possible to break this information down by staff grade as this can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental travel policy is to use economy class air travel as a default and business class where reasonable, such as for long-haul flights. First class air travel is not booked unless there are very exceptional reasons.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189813]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has spent £108,691.00 on bottled water in 2007.

The Department is moving to the provision of tap water on its estate from July 2008.

Fibromyalgia

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to issue guidelines on the treatment and management of fibromyalgia; [214299]

(2) what plans his Department has to improve the treatment of people with fibromyalgia; and if he will make a statement. [214300]

Ann Keen: We are unaware of any plans the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence may have to publish guidelines on the treatment and management of fibromyalgia.

There are no specific plans to improve the treatment for those living with fibromyalgia. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission and monitor the quality of health services provided for those with fibromyalgia.

General Practitioners: Havering Primary Care Trust

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the GP to patient ratio within Havering Primary Care Trust was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [214184]

Ann Keen: The information requested can be found in the following table.

The following table shows the number of patients per general practitioner (GP) in the Havering primary care trust (PCT) area, as at 30 September 2007. These are the latest figures available.

Havering PCT: Number of patients per GP, as at 30 September 2007

Organisation	*Number*
All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	130
Registered patients	247,315
Patients per GP	1,902

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics.

General Practitioners: Morecambe

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per 100,000 of the population there are in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [214602]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected by constituency area. However, information on the number of general practitioners per 100,000 of population for the North Lancashire primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the following table.

Selected statistics by PCT

	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	
	Headcount	*Headcount per 100,000 population*
North Lancashire PCT	201	61.1

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

General Practitioners: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries there were in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [214215]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 761W.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs in each constituency are offering extended opening hours. [213628]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of GP surgeries are open at 7 p.m. *(a)* on weekdays and *(b)* at weekends; and if he will make a statement. [213648]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information in the form requested is not held centrally. For the purposes of monitoring, the Department of Health is collecting on a monthly basis the numbers of general practitioner practices in each primary care trust area which offer extended opening hours, but this does not set out the opening hours of individual practices as this will depend on local patients' preferences. Statistics on extended opening hours are being published on a monthly basis, and, to date, May 2008 data are available, and copies have been placed in the Library.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what pilots of extended opening hours for GP surgeries have been undertaken by his Department; and what lessons have been learned. [214413]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department ran six pilots, as part of its Innovation in Primary Care Contracting Programme. The pilot aims were to: improve access to general practitioner (GP) services; provide more services from a greater range of providers closer to where patients live; and to encourage recruitment of GPs in areas with historic low levels. These pilots included offering longer opening hours, and valuable lessons were learnt and used to inform future centrally and locally supported procurements of GP services.

Currently, 20 per cent. of practices in England are offering extended opening hours to their patients, and where these have been running for some time, they have proved popular with patients and GPs alike. Analysis of NHS Choices data shows that where practices deliver extended opening, neighbouring practices are twice as likely to follow suit.

Health Centres

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to establish polyclinics in the Leicester Primary Care Trust area; [213094]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* hospitals of the establishment of a polyclinic in the same primary care trust area; [213095]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average cost of opening a polyclinic; [213096]

(4) which stakeholders will be consulted upon decisions regarding the establishment of polyclinics; [213098]

(5) what involvement local GPs will have in the creation of a polyclinic; [213099]

(6) what plans he has for public consultation on the establishment of polyclinics in the Leicester area; [213100]

(7) what health care services available in hospitals will be made available at polyclinics; [213101]

(8) what health care services are available at GP surgeries he proposes to make available at polyclinics. [213102]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not have a polyclinic policy. Primary care trusts (PCTs) have been asked to commission general practitioner (GP)-led health centres that provide core GP services, that are open from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year and that can be used by anyone either with an appointment or on a walk in basis. Any services provided above and beyond this will be decided locally depending on local needs.

It is for PCTs to determine the local impact and to ensure maximum benefits for their populations. We have consistently emphasised the need for strong public and clinical engagement in making decisions on the location of these new services and the range of services they provide. However the precise nature and scope of the consultation should be determined locally.

Collectively PCTs will be allocated £120 million to deliver at least one GP-led heath centre. Costs will vary locally, largely depending on what services the PCT decides to provide above and beyond the core services.

Leicester PCT is establishing a new GP-led health centre and three new GP practices in its under-served areas. Extensive public consultation is being carried out to determine the location and services that will be delivered. The process is ongoing.

Health Centres: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what polyclinics are planned to be established in *(a)* Southend West constituency and *(b)* each primary care trust in Essex; and if he will make a statement; [212420]

(2) what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with general practitioners in Southend on polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [212422]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not have a polyclinic policy. Primary care trusts (PCTs) have been asked to provide at least one general practitioner (GP)-led health centre in their areas that will be open from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year and that can be used by anyone either with an appointment or on a walk in basis.

It is for PCTs to set out their proposals for these new GP led health centres following consultation with patients, GPs and others, which focus on local needs and preferences. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no current plans to meet GPs in Southend to discuss polyclinics.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance his Department has made available to primary care trusts in Essex to develop polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [212421]

Mr. Bradshaw: A £250 million access fund was secured for the national health service through the comprehensive spending review process to support the delivery of general practitioner (GP)-led health centres in every primary care trust (PCT) and 100 new GP practices in the most poorly served PCTs. £120 million of this is for health centres and will be included in PCT allocations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. PCT allocations are a general allocation and are not broken down into individually identifiable sums for specific policy areas. PCT allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been finalised but will be announced in due course.

Health Centres: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new funding will be made available to support the establishment of a GP-led health centre facility in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area; and if he will make a statement. [214221]

Mr. Bradshaw: A £250 million access fund was secured for the national health service through the comprehensive spending review process to support the delivery of general practitioner (GP)-led health centres in every primary care trust (PCTs) and 100 new GP practices in the most poorly served PCTs. Collectively, £120 million of this is for health centres and will be included in PCT allocations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. PCT allocations are a general allocation and are not broken down into individually identifiable sums for specific policy areas. PCT allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been finalised but will be announced in due course.

Health Services: Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an assessment of the effects on existing health services in Norwich should the proposed GP-led health care centre be established. [213486]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts to determine the local impact of the general practitioner-led health centre and to ensure maximum benefits for their populations. We have consistently emphasised the need for strong public and clinical engagement in making decisions on the location of these new services and the range of services they provide. However the precise nature and scope of the consultation should be determined locally.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital wards have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213632]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department collects data on the number of beds in the national health service. This information is routinely published on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/index.htm

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-attendees there were for *(a)* outpatient appointments and *(b)* in-patients and day case admissions in NHS hospitals in the latest period for which figures are available. [214483]

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hospital non-attendees for *(a)* out-patients and *(b)* in-patients and daycare admissions in the latest period for which figures are available. [213634]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of 'did not attend' for out-patient appointments (both first and subsequent) for the year 2007-08 was 5,308,297. The number of 'failed to attend' for in-patient and day case admissions for 2007-08 was 97,022.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died in NHS hospitals from infections and viruses acquired in hospital on average each week in *(a) the* North West and *(b)* the UK in the last 12 months. [213649]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available as death certificates record the place where a person dies but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the hospital or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing/care homes and other establishments and may acquire infections in a different place from where they died.

The Office for National Statistics publishes analyses of deaths in England and Wales where meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) or Clostridium difficile is mentioned on the death certificate but these data do not indicate if the infection was acquired in hospital or elsewhere. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006, the data are published in Health Statistics Quarterly 37, copies of which are available in the Library.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the definitions of the terms *(a)* pronucleus and *(b)* embryo given by the Minister of State in the Public Bill Committee on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 13 and 24, for what reason those definitions do not follow the definitions set by the Appeal Committee of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. [214500]

Dawn Primarolo: The definitions set by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's Appeal Committee are based upon an understanding of the scientific difference between the pro-nuclei and a nucleus of an embryonic cell. The Bill sets out to ensure that, for the purposes of legislation, the terms pro-nucleus and nucleus are equivalent, to ensure the provisions regarding the genetic modification of human embryos apply equally to single cell embryos as they do to embryos at a later stage of development.

Leicester General Hospital

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the process of disposal of the site of the former Leicester General Hospital, with particular reference to the involvement of interested parties. [213829]

Mr. Bradshaw: The future of the Leicester General Hospital is a matter for University Hospitals Leicester NHS Trust working together with primary care trusts in Leicestershire. Plans for the future of Leicester General Hospital will be subject to full stakeholder engagement and public consultation in due course.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects sealed envelope software to be available for testing in each of the main established GP systems; and what plans he has to pilot sealed envelope software within established discrete GP databases before being rolled out to databases accessible by multiple providers. [212182]

Mr. Bradshaw: We expect general practitioner (GP) information technology system suppliers to begin compliance work for sealed envelope software following the next release of the software which is expected before the end of 2008. We are aware that some GP systems suppliers already provide similar functionality in existing products.

The current intention is that the same implementation approach will be used as with the summary care record, that is through assessment in early adopter sites. Final details have yet to be confirmed.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients are obliged to have their data recorded on the National Care Records Service. [212187]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1990W.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the application of the provisions of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 to *(a)* the processing of data on any component of the national care records database and *(b)* patient requirements not to record clinical information on databases accessible by users not directly involved in their care. [213290]

Mr. Bradshaw: Guidance aimed at all general practitioners, entitled "Guidance on Managing Requests for no Summary Care Record During the Period of the Early Adopter Programme" was issued for distribution via primary care trusts in March 2007. It included the following statement:

> "However .... people do have a legal right to have objections to the creation of their Summary Care Record considered, as provided under section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts1998/80029-b.htm#10). As the current Data Controller for general practitioner records, each practice is legally responsible for responding to these objections, which are referred to as section 10 notices."

Detailed guidance on the application of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 has not been issued by the Department as the Information Commissioner's website provides extremely clear and helpful material relevant to all processing of personal data.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether detailed care records will be available from clusters other than those in which they originate. [213293]

Mr. Bradshaw: In some existing national health service information technology (IT) systems, detailed care records are already available outside the immediate locality. Under the National Programme for IT (NPfIT), detailed care records are potentially available to the other organisations within the technical environment on which that particular IT system has been deployed, typically across local health communities. These are generally referred to as a 'deployment instance' and can be as small as a single organisation or as wide as the NHS defines within the geographic area of a supplier. Access to records is tightly controlled, however, so that only those who are involved in a patient's care may have access to that patient's clinical information and even this access can be prevented by patients who dissent from information sharing.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the circumstances in which an opt-out from the summary care record under section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 could be overridden; and if he will make a statement. [213300]

Mr. Bradshaw: Requests made by patients under the provisions of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 must be considered on a case by case basis. The Act makes it clear that a section 10 request should only be overridden where the purpose served by processing the data is sufficiently important to warrant doing so even where it is accepted that substantial harm or distress is being caused. We do not expect there to be many, if any, circumstances where this would arise in the case of an individual who is competent to make decisions. However, there may be circumstances, for example, where there are serious child protection concerns, where a doctor might feel that a parent's request to opt a child out of having a summary care record is not in the best interest of a child.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from law enforcement organisations on *(a)* access to the secondary users database and *(b)* provision to law enforcement authorities of the identities of individuals with specific information on their medical records; and if he will make a statement. [213302]

Mr. Bradshaw: Law enforcement organisations are not permitted to directly access data held within the secondary uses service or any other patient information held centrally, and no representations have been received to do so.

Data are only disclosed to law enforcement organisations in accordance with the Department's publication "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice" (2003), copies of the code are available in the Library. This limits disclosure to circumstances where the overriding public interest outweighs obligations of confidentiality, for example, when immediate action is required to prevent or support detection of extremely serious crimes, where there is statutory authority, or where the courts have made an order requiring disclosure.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which categories of staff other than those based at the surgery at which a medical record was created will be able to override a patient's wishes expressed through sealed envelope software. [213305]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Rugby and Kenilworth (Jeremy Wright) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 114W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Connecting for Health obliges patients to sign documents that invoke the provisions of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 before they opt out of the summary care record; and what guidance he has issued on the compatibility of accepting an instruction to opt out of the summary care record with *(a)* common law confidentiality provisions and *(b)* the fair processing requirements of the Data Protection Act. [213346]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions about whether or not to agree to an individual's request to opt-out of a summary care record rest with individual general practitioner practices. Provided that patients are informed about the summary care record and access to that record is appropriately controlled, the Department believes that the provisions of common law and the fair processing requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 are met in full.

Where these requirements have been met, section 10 of the Act still applies and provides a framework for considering requests while recognising that there may be circumstances, for example for child protection purposes, where an opt-out request should be turned down.

The Government believe that the summary care record is an important component of the care that the national health service should provide in the future. It is in the interest of both doctors and their patients to ensure that any opt-out request by a patient, agreed to by the doctor, be clearly documented in the event that future medical or legal consequences should call the matter into question. NHS Connecting for Health has provided general practitioners with a simple pro forma for that purpose.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what scenarios his Department has established for the release of identifiable patient information from NHS care records to third parties without the patient's consent; and what the *(a)* data source, *(b)* destination, *(c)* nature of the information, *(d)* legal justification, *(e)* data controller and *(f)* professional role of the individual providing approval in each scenario is. [213348]

Mr. Bradshaw: The release of identifiable patient information from NHS Care Records must be in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, common law confidentiality requirements and any other pertinent legislation. These limit the release of information without consent to circumstances where the public interest that would be served by the release of information outweighs an individual's right to confidentiality, or where legislation or the courts require or permit the release. These circumstances are described and explained in more detail in the Department's publication "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice" (November 2003) copies of the Code are available in the Library.

Medical Records: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what type of computer system handles patient records in *(a)* Dorchester County Hospital and *(b)* Bournemouth Hospital. [212456]

Mr. Bradshaw: Dorset county hospital in Dorchester is managed by Dorset county hospital NHS foundation trust, and the Royal Bournemouth hospital is managed by the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals

NHS foundation trust. The information requested is a matter for these foundation trusts.

We have written to Robin SeQueira CBE, chair of Dorset county hospital NHS foundation trust, and Sheila Collins, chair of the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals NHS foundation trust, informing them of the hon. Member's inquiry. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Library.

Migraines

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of migraine treatment in England. [215088]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent assessment of the standard of migraine treatment.

Mineral Waters

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191254]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last three years the Department purchased:

	Litres
2005	45,738
2006	52,861
2007	53,020

The Department is moving to the provision of tap water on its estate from July 2008.

NHS: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the classification as sensitive of a patient's name and address when stored in conjunction with a record of *(a)* attendance at a health facility and *(b)* consultation with a particular clinician; and if he will review the provisions for recording sensitive information in the audit trail of records accessed on the Patient Demographic Service database. [213308]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Code of Practice, "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice", published in November 2003, provides guidance on the required practice for those who work within or under contract to national health service organisations. In addition, the specific guidance issued in support of the Personal Demographics Service (PDS) draws attention to this wider guidance and states explicitly that each health care organisation is responsible for ensuring that health care professionals are aware that inappropriate use of the PDS could result in disciplinary proceedings against them.

Copies of the code are available in the Library, and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/06/92/54/04069254.pdf.

The code has been endorsed by the Information Commissioner, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association.

The information held within the audit trails associated with the PDS can be sensitive, though clearly not as sensitive as a full clinical record, and the content is covered by the code. Access to audit trail information is restricted to a small number of individuals authorised by their organisations to investigate the use and potential misuse of systems, and to access the minimum information necessary to undertake this work. There is no evidence of abuse of these arrangements but NHS Connecting for Health continues to monitor and review as necessary.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by the NHS in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [214391]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table. Audited figures for 2007-08 will be available in the autumn.

		£ million
	Revenue funding	*Expenditure*
2005-06	66,641	71,794
2006-07	70,544	74,026
2007-08	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Sources:

Revenue resource limits for strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Gross expenditure reported in the national health service summarised accounts of SHAs 2005-06 and 2006-07.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of Government funding for the NHS in the next three years. [214388]

Mr. Bradshaw: Government planned funding for the national health service for the next three years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is set in Figure A.1 of the "Department of Health Departmental Report 2008", copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the administration of the NHS in each year since 1990. [214390]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table. Information on administration is not available prior to 1991-92. The latest year for which information is available is 2006-07.

	Administration costs (£ million)	*As a percentage of total NHS expenditure (Percentage)*
1991-92	1,446	5.7
1992-93	1,545	5.5
1993-94	1,605	5.5
1994-95	1,637	5.4
1995-96	1,699	5.3
1996-97	1,786	5.4
1997-98	1,825	5.3
1998-99	1,936	5.3
1999-2000	2,078	5.2
2000-01	2,279	5.2
2001-02	2,597	5.3

	Administration costs (£ million)	As a percentage of total NHS expenditure (Percentage)
2002-03	2,893	5.4
2003-04	3,188	5.0
2004-05	3,412	4.9
2005-06	3,648	4.8
2006-07	3,619	4.5

Note

Figures for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 exclude data for foundation trusts

Source

Annual financial returns (unaudited) for primary care trusts, (strategic) health authorities and national health service trusts 1991-92 to 2006-07. NHS total expenditure (England) 1991-92 to 2006-07

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS surplus was for 2007-08; and how much was spent in that year on prepayment of suppliers for services to be provided in years after 2007-08. [214418]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the draft accounts for the 2007-08 financial year end, the national health service (excluding foundation trusts) is reporting an overall surplus of £1,658 million.

The Department does not collect centrally information on the prepayment of suppliers and services.

NHS accounts are prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (UK GAAP) framework as required by HM Treasury and set out in guidance for the NHS by the Department. Each NHS organisation's accounts is subject to a full audit to ensure that they are complying with this framework.

Under UK GAAP rules, a prepayment would not impact on the surplus because expenditure is recorded on an accruals basis. This measures resources as they are consumed rather than when cash is paid. Therefore any prepayments made in 2007-08 would have no impact on the expenditure recorded in the NHS for that financial year, and consequently would not affect the level of surplus.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the sections of the contract with Fujitsu pertaining to the termination of the contract and the termination notice. [212278]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not the Department's practice to publish copies of, or extracts from, contracts with suppliers let under the National Programme for IT on the grounds that the contents are covered by the exemptions at sections 41 and 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 41 of the Act exempts information where disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence, and section 43(2) where disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

Publication of the termination notice issued to Fujitsu in the context of ongoing negotiations to reach a settlement with the company would put that objective at risk and potentially compromise the Department's position in any possible future litigation. Either outcome would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the Department, and in turn the taxpayer, and for that reason we believe its disclosure is similarly covered by section 43(2) of the Act.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes to the contracts for the NHS IT programme will be required to reflect the extension to the completion time for the programme. [213317]

Mr. Bradshaw: The completion time described in the most recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General's review of the National Programme for IT is covered, with the exception of the Fujitsu contract, within existing contractual arrangements. The contracts provide mechanisms to cater for any further changes in the delivery timetable via an agreed change control process.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to issue termination notices under the NHS IT contract to *(a)* CSC and *(b)* BT. [213320]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are currently no such plans.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason a termination notice was not issued to Accenture in relation to its work on the NHS IT contract. [213321]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006, Accenture made arrangements to voluntarily novate the company's contract to another existing supplier under the NHS National Programme for IT. In the circumstances prevailing at the time, this was considered to best serve the public's interest in ensuring momentum and continuity in delivery of systems and services and also delivering value for money.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* administrative staff were employed by the NHS in each year since 2000. [214392]

Ann Keen: The number of medical and administrative staff that were employed in the national health service in each year since 2000 is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services and general practice (GP) work force (excluding GP retainers[1]) in England as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total employed staff[1]	1,117,841	1,166,016	1,223,824	1,282,930	1,331,087	1,365,388	1,338,140	1,330,544
Professionally qualified clinical staff	552,936	574,646	603,077	633,375	660,706	679,157	674,621	681,246
Of which								
All doctors[1]	96,319	99,169	103,350	108,993	117,036	122,345	125,612	127,645

NHS hospital and community health services and general practice (GP) work force (excluding GP retainers[1]) in England as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Consultants (including directors of public health)	24,401	25,782	27,070	28,750	30,650	31,993	32,874	33,674
Registrars	12,730	13,220	13,770	14,619	16,823	18,006	18,808	30,759
Other doctors in training	19,192	19,572	21,145	22,701	24,874	26,305	27,461	16,024
Other medical and dental staff	9,744	9,910	10,183	10,330	10,604	10,739	11,100	11,333
GPs[1] including registrars	30,252	30,685	31,182	32,593	34,08[illegible]	35,302	35,369	35,855
Total clerical and administrative staff[2]	199,603	211,653	227,303	245,273	260,857	272,565	261,053	256,686
Of which								
Central functions	96,872	102,348	110,481	119,730	129,249	136,513	130,559	128,620
Hotel, property and estates	10,301	10,494	10,424	10,823	10,827	10,762	9,099	8,818
Scientific therapeutic and technical ST&T support	13,472	13,880	15,332	16,548	17,356	16,587	15,282	14,391
Clerical support	75,677	81,496	87,738	94,702	99,845	105,004	102,486	101,125
Ambulance service support	3,281	3,435	3,328	3,470	3,580	3,699	3,627	3,732
Other GP practice staff[4]	83,070	84,473	86,292	88,424	90,110	89,190	95,845	94,515

[1] Figures exclude GP retainers.

[2] Enhanced validation processes have led to the removal of duplicate records from the non-medical census (from 2006 onwards). Although percentages were small (less than 1 per cent), comparisons with years prior to this need to be treated with caution. This only effects headcount.

[3] Examples of staff in central functions are staff in human resources, informatics, payroll, and library staff.

Examples of staff in hotel, property and estates are clerical laundry staff, domestic services and home wardens.

Examples of staff in ST&T support are clerical staff in audiology, haematology, dietetics and microbiology.

Ambulance service support staff are ambulance controllers, training staff and ambulance officers.

[4] Other practice staff, there is no breakdown of type of work for headcount data. However type of work is available for full-time equivalent practice staff and the majority (over 80 per cent. in 2007) were administrative and clerical staff.

Notes:

1. Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife. Includes GP practice nurses.
2. In 2006, ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

Source:

Information centre for health and social care.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS administrative staff in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how much is forecast to be spent in 2008-09, broken down by primary care trust. [214389]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information for 2006-07 is provided in the following table. Information for 2007-08 will not be available until autumn 2008. As the Department does not collect data relating to expenditure on administrative staff until after the end of the financial year, no information can yet be provided for 2008-09.

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Name	*Administrative staff (£000)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	6,761
Barking and Dagenham PCT	3,911
Barnet PCT	7,625
Barnsley PCT	8,907
Bassetlaw PCT	1,119
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5,519
Bedfordshire PCT	4,662
Berkshire East PCT	4,380
Berkshire West PCT	6,719
Bexley Care PCT	3,903
Birmingham East and North PCT	7,859
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	4,346
Blackpool PCT	3,791
Bolton PCT	6,427
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	3,425
Bradford and Airedale PCT	2,191
Brent Teaching PCT	10,117
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,581
Bristol PCT	8,776
Bromley PCT	5,477
Buckinghamshire PCT	8,120
Bury PCT	3,837
Calderdale PCT	3,656
Cambridgeshire PCT	9,835
Camden PCT	11,953
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	10,367
Central Lancashire PCT	13,717
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	9,014
Cornwall And Isles Of Scilly PCT	5,602
County Durham PCT	9,640
Coventry Teaching PCT	11,355
Croydon PCT	6,388
Cumbria PCT	9,414
Darlington PCT	1,125
Derby City PCT	9,696
Derbyshire County PCT	11,374
Devon PCT	11,737
Doncaster PCT	6,887
Dorset PCT	9,484
Dudley PCT	8,353

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Name	*Administrative staff (£000)*
Ealing PCT	13,480
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	6,705
East Lancashire PCT	9,334
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	2,376
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	7,482
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	11,744
Enfield PCT	8,742
Gateshead PCT	3,218
Gloucestershire PCT	8,798
Great Yarmouth And Waveney PCT	1,892
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5,091
Halton and St. Helens PCT	8,168
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	4,276
Hampshire PCT	15,968
Haringey Teaching PCT	5,030
Harrow PCT	2,626
Hartlepool PCT	2,017
Hastings and Rother PCT	2,339
Havering PCT	6,393
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	9,575
Herefordshire PCT	10,382
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5,438
Hillingdon PCT	4,115
Hounslow PCT	3,364
Hull PCT	9,728
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	8,490
Islington PCT	5,572
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5,023
Kingston PCT	2,816
Kirklees PCT	4,544
Knowsley PCT	4,559
Lambeth PCT	6,184
Leeds PCT	16,829
Leicester City PCT	4,884
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	9,219
Lewisham PCT	17,147
Lincolnshire PCT	8,448
Liverpool PCT	26,691
Luton PCT	3,624
Manchester PCT	17,915
Medway PCT	4,021
Mid Essex PCT	4,380
Middlesbrough PCT	3,838
Milton Keynes PCT	4,756
Newcastle PCT	6,096
Newham PCT	7,137
Norfolk PCT	16,842
North East Essex PCT	8,154
North East Lincolnshire PCT	3,330
North Lancashire PCT	7,441
North Lincolnshire PCT	2,490
North Somerset PCT	1,547
North Staffordshire PCT	2,080
North Tees PCT	2,902
North Tyneside PCT	2,615
North Yorkshire And York PCT	10,427
Northamptonshire PCT	7,582
Northumberland Care PCT	4,896
Nottingham City PCT	7,142
Nottinghamshire County PCT	14,210
Oldham PCT	7,741
Oxfordshire PCT	5,386
Peterborough PCT	6,884
Plymouth Teaching PCT	6,492
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	8,110
Redbridge PCT	3,882
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2,112
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	3,210
Rotherham PCT	8,449
Salford PCT	8,583
Sandwell PCT	5,647
Sefton PCT	4,949
Sheffield PCT	8,197
Shropshire County PCT	6,030
Solihull Care PCT	3,112
Somerset PCT	6,466
South Birmingham PCT	12,860
South East Essex PCT	4,018
South Gloucestershire PCT	2,372
South Staffordshire PCT	6,933
South Tyneside PCT	3,182
South West Essex PCT	6,615
Southampton City PCT	8,536
Southwark PCT	6,794
Stockport PCT	4,611
Stoke on Trent PCT	7,132
Suffolk PCT	5,288
Sunderland Teaching PCT	7,256
Surrey PCT	15,982
Sutton and Merton PCT	6,320
Swindon PCT	3,157
Tameside and Glossop PCT	6,564
Telford and Wrekin PCT	4,193
Torbay Care PCT	4,527
Tower Hamlets PCT	9,803
Trafford PCT	3,571
Wakefield District PCT	5,733
Walsall Teaching PCT	9,235
Waltham Forest PCT	7,966
Wandsworth PCT	6,912
Warrington PCT	5,654
Warwickshire PCT	14,092
West Essex PCT	3,248
West Hertfordshire PCT	6,624
West Kent PCT	14,090
West Sussex PCT	17,055
Western Cheshire PCT	4,849
Westminster PCT	7,655
Wiltshire PCT	7,592
Wirral PCT	5,123
Wolverhampton City PCT	9,632
Worcestershire PCT	6,642
England	1,078,228

Source:
Annual PCT financial returns for 2006-07

Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many and what proportion of recorded admissions in each NHS acute trust an assessment for pressure ulcers was undertaken in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [214461]

Ann Keen: Information on the proportion of recorded admissions where an assessment for pressure ulcers was undertaken is not collected centrally.

Radiotherapy: Waiting Lists

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for radiotherapy treatment in Havering Primary Care Trust. [214194]

Ann Keen: Information about average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment, including radiotherapy, is not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times standards were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. They are a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment. In the last quarter (January to March 2008), performance against these standards in England was 99.5 per cent. and 96.8 per cent. respectively.

Waiting Lists: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in North Devon are waiting for treatment; and how many there were in each month since January 2003. [183085]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Information for former North Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) and current Devon PCT patients waiting for treatment at the end of the month

	North Devon PCT				*Devon PCT*	
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2006*	*2007*
January	3,443	3,302	2,654	2,646	n/a	10,874
February	3,395	3,321	2,627	2,653	n/a	10,395
March	3,332	3,163	2,617	2,687	n/a	10,000
April	3,272	3,258	2,754	2,697	n/a	10,034
May	3,277	3,281	2,572	2,704	n/a	10,317
June	3,292	3,253	2,495	2,706	n/a	10,334
July	3,205	3,152	2,533	2,687	n/a	10,291
August	3,193	3,014	2,508	2,830	n/a	10,245
September	3,228	2,954	2,419	2,818	n/a	10,122
October	3,357	2,806	2,460	n/a	11,389	9,614
November	3,418	2,836	2,621	n/a	11,116	9,379
December	3,393	2,654	2,623	n/a	11,340	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Note:

On 1 October 2006, Devon PCT was formed from a merger of six previous PCTs East Devon PCT, Exeter PCT, Mid-Devon PCT, North Devon PCT, South Hams and West Devon PCT, and Teinbridge PCT. This explains the increase in figures from October 2006 onward. Figures for November 2007 are the latest figures available.

Source:

QFOI, Monthly Monitoring (Commissioner).

Abortion: Young People

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake research to evaluate whether the Government's target to reduce the number of teenage mothers has had an effect on the number of teenagers having abortions. [213810]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's target is to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions, not the rate of teenage motherhood. Once a conception has occurred, the Government do not attempt to influence the outcome of that conception, but rather to ensure that all the advice and support necessary is available.

The first priority of the teenage pregnancy strategy is to encourage all young people to delay sexual activity. However, it recognises that between a quarter and a third of young people have sex before age 16. That is why the strategy also includes measures to improve sexually active young people's access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, so that they can avoid unplanned pregnancies and STIs.

The strategy is working. Between 1998 (the baseline year for the teenage pregnancy strategy) and 2006 (the latest year for which data are available) the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 13.3 per cent to its lowest level for over 20 years. The under-16 rate has fallen by 13.0 per cent. over the same period.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213410]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) estate is valued for accounting purposes twice a year by FCO chartered surveyors. In line with international accounting standards, external chartered surveyors value the estate over a three year rolling programme.

Diplomatic Service: Crime

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many notifiable offences were committed by British diplomats based abroad in 2007, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* country; and if he will make a statement. [214050]

Meg Munn: We are not aware of any notifiable offences committed by our diplomats based abroad in 2007. One former diplomat is currently under investigation by the police regarding a possible offence committed while overseas in 2007. We cannot comment further while that investigation is ongoing.

European External Action Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the transfer of *(a)* relevant European Commission departments and *(b)* the General Secretariat of the Council to the European External Action Service; when the policy was first determined; when the UK's position was first communicated to (i) other EU member states and (ii) the European Commission, and in what forum; and if he will make a statement. [210251]

David Miliband *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: In light of the Irish referendum result, discussions on the External Action Service at the EU General Affairs Council and the European Council were cancelled. That was the right response to the referendum in Ireland. No further work will be carried out, and the work has stopped in the UK, until such time as there is a new suggestion from the French presidency or a way forward suggested by the Irish Government.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements were reached at the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on *(a)* 7 May and *(b)* 13 May 2008 on the European External Action Service, with particular reference to (i) the composition of the Service and (ii) the transfer of officials from (A) European Commission directorates-general and (B) the General Secretariat of the Council; and if he will make a statement. [210253]

David Miliband *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: No agreements have been reached on the composition of the European External Action Service or the transfer of Commission and Council Secretariat officials to the Service.

In light of the Irish referendum result, discussions on the External Action Service at the EU General Affairs Council and the European Council were cancelled. No further work will be carried out and the work has stopped in the UK until such time as there is a new suggestion from the French presidency or a way forward suggested by the Irish Government.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position was taken by the UK in the COREPER meetings on *(a)* 7 May and *(b)* 13 May 2008 on proposals made by the French government on the transfer of relevant (i) European Commission directorates and (ii) bodies of the General Secretariat of the Council to the European External Action Service; who represented the UK at each meeting; what conditions were attached to the UK's position on the proposals; and if he will make a statement. [213374]

David Miliband *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: No agreements have been reached on the composition of the European External Action Service (EEAS) or the transfer of Commission and Council Secretariat officials, bodies or departments to the Service. In light of the Irish referendum result, discussions on the EEAS at the General Affairs Council and the European Council were cancelled. The work has stopped in the UK until such time as there is a new suggestion from the French presidency or a way forward suggested by the Irish Government. The UK Permanent Representative to the EU represents the UK in the Permanent Representatives Committee.

Heads of Government Summit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what transport provision was made available for use by attendees of the Heads of Government Summit held on 5 April. [212016]

Meg Munn: No transport provision was made by the Government for any Heads of State or government attending the summit, with the exceptions of the Prime Minister of Australia and the President of Chile who were following separate Guest of Government programmes.

Shuttle buses for delegates and media to access the venue from either the security check point or media accreditation site were provided. Transport to the venue for Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff supporting the logistics of the event was also provided.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is UK policy to secure the multilateral withdrawal of export credit provision to Iran by European Union countries. [213476]

David Miliband: United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803, adopted on 3 March 2008, "calls upon all States to exercise vigilance in entering into new commitments for public provided financial support for trade with Iran, including the granting of export credits". The first step will be a new EU Common Position implementing the provisions of UNSCR 1803, including those on export credits. I will inform the House when this has been adopted. We are also discussing with EU partners the scope for further action in this area. The UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department has stopped processing applications for new export credit cover to Iran.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1197W, on Iran: sanctions, what UK policy is on *(a)* monitoring the activities of Iranian financial institutions and *(b)* a European ban on the operations of Iranian banks Melli and Meillat; and if he will make a statement. [210478]

David Miliband: The UK has implemented the provisions in previous UN Security Council resolutions that relate to named Iranian banks. HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority monitor the activities of these and other Iranian institutions closely. Building on UN Security Council Resolution 1803, which was adopted in March, we are pressing for a new Common Position to implement it at EU level, including the provision on increased vigilance over the activities of Iranian financial institutions, including Banks Melli and Meillat. On 23 June the EU listed more Iranian entities, including Bank Melli, which imposed an EU-wide freeze of their funds and other financial assets.

Moldova: Visas

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visitor visas were granted to citizens of Moldova in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [212921]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The number of visit visas issued to Moldovan nationals in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2005	1,282
2006	1,476
2007	292

Note:
Date range: 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.
Source:
Central Reference System

These data are previously unpublished and should be strictly treated as provisional.

Mujahedin-e Khalq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received *(a)* directly and *(b)* through the British embassy in Tehran on the de-proscription of the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [213455]

David Miliband: The deproscription of the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran is an issue of great concern to the Iranian authorities. The Iranian authorities have raised this issue with our embassy in Tehran and with officials in London on a number of occasions. In response we have explained that the appeals process is a judicial and not a political matter.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to investigate allegations of human rights abuses in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [212059]

David Miliband: We continue to monitor the situation in Somalia and take all allegations of human rights abuses extremely seriously. We recently supported UN Security Council Resolution 1814, adopted on 15 May, endorsing a new UN approach by integrating the UN's political, security and stabilisation efforts and strengthening the presence of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Somalia.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms exist under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan to investigate violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and if he will make a statement. [213458]

David Miliband: The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) established the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) which was mandated to set up the Human Rights Commission. The NCRC has drafted the necessary legislation but this has not yet been passed. In the South, a Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission was set up in June 2006. The Interim National Constitution, adopted in 2005 under the CPA, includes a Bill of Rights that enshrines the principle of human rights at all levels of government and society.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions the Government plan to seek with the goal of accelerating the deployment of the UN/African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur and promoting the peace process, as referred to in the 2008 EU-US Summit declaration. [212038]

David Miliband: The UK will consider all available options including the use of UN or EU targeted sanctions if appropriate, to secure the effective deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur and promote a peaceful resolution to the situation in Darfur. Further sanctions could include: an assets freeze and travel ban against individuals engaged in violence; the extension of existing UN arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan; and measures to improve monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur. If the Government of Sudan and rebel groups still fail to co-operate, tougher measures may be necessary in future. We continue to discuss actively with Security Council and other partners how to expedite progress on both issues.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on proposals to impose targeted sanctions on Sudanese officials who obstruct the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur. [213477]

David Miliband: We are working closely with the UN Security Council and other partners to ensure the effective deployment of the UN-African Union joint peacekeeping mission in Darfur. If appropriate this could include the use of targeted UN or EU sanctions such as an asset freeze and travel ban on named individuals. These questions remain under active consideration with Security Council partners, but have not so far secured consensus in the Council

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008 to the hon. Member for South Sunderland, *Official Report*, column 815W on Sudan: war crimes, what criteria would have to be met to trigger further sanctions against Sudan for non-co-operation with the International Criminal Court. [213377]

David Miliband: The Government continue to work with the international community to ensure there is no impunity for the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. This includes considering the use of targeted UN and EU sanctions where appropriate as part of a wider political strategy. The Government will continue to assess developments in the International Criminal Court process, including the level of Sudan's cooperation with the Court, and consider further measures as appropriate.

Terrorism: International Cooperation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to reach international agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [212040]

David Miliband: Negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism have been taking place since 2000 with the active support and involvement of the UK. We have made the case throughout for a clear text consistent with the 13 existing sectoral counter-terrorism conventions as well as with international humanitarian law. A comprehensive convention could contribute to a more unified global response to terrorism and we will work closely with our European allies and other international partners to try to reach agreement in the next round of negotiations this autumn.

Tibet: Press Freedom

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on access for foreign journalists to Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [213381]

David Miliband: Foreign journalists, along with all other foreigners, are normally only able to travel to Tibet after acquiring a time-limited entry permit from the Chinese authorities. The Chinese authorities are not currently granting such permits. We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to allow free media access to Tibet, not just the restricted access we saw on 21 June. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the issue of media access with Chinese Vice Minister Wang Yi when he visited China on 14 April.

Zimbabwe: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there have been any incidents of intimidation or aggression towards British diplomats in Zimbabwe since 5 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [213456]

David Miliband: There have been no incidents of aggression or intimidation towards our diplomats since 5 June. However, in the course of performing their legitimate diplomatic activities, vehicles have been stopped and officials questioned about the nature of their business before being allowed to continue.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department is making to the monitoring of the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe; and what organisations his Department is working with on such election monitoring. [213371]

David Miliband: Our diplomats accredited to Zimbabwe applied to the Electoral Commission to observe the second round of elections and visited polling stations on 27 June. Accreditation for election observation in Zimbabwe was severely restricted with local election observers numbering only hundreds, instead of the tens of thousands accredited for the first round.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to secure the sending of a UN team to Zimbabwe to monitor human rights and to deter further human rights abuses; and if he will make a statement. [212041]

David Miliband: A UN envoy, Assistant Secretary General Haile Menkerios, was in Zimbabwe to hold a series of meetings with the Zimbabwean Government and others on the current political and humanitarian crisis. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has also urged the UN Secretary-General to send a Human Rights envoy to Zimbabwe to press for the immediate cessation of the appalling abuses taking place there.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 June 2008

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Environment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure UK compliance with the provisions of Article 9 on access to justice of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, and if he will make a statement. [212995]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is fully supportive of the goals of the Aarhus Convention. The UK National Implementation report sets out the necessary legislative, regulatory or other measures that the UK has taken to implement the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. A copy of the report can be found on the Aarhus Convention webpage of the Defra website.

Cambridge University

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date, and for how many minutes *(a)* the Universities Committee of the Privy Council and *(b)* any other committee of the Privy Council considered the amendments to the statutes of the University of Cambridge that he laid before the House on 10 June 2008. [214409]

Mr. Wills: I am answering on behalf of my right hon. Friend Baroness Ashton of Upholland, Lord President of the Council, with whom policy responsibility lies.

Statute amendments submitted by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and by their colleges, under the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1923, are firstly published in the London Gazette, inviting petitions against within eight weeks. If no petitions are received, the amendments are then laid before Parliament for four weeks. If there are no prayers made against, the amendments are then submitted to the Queen in Council for approval, following a recommendation by the Privy Council. Concurrently with the statutory procedure, the amendments are referred to the individual members of an ad hoc committee of the Privy Council for consideration and report.

In the instance of those amendments laid before Parliament on 10 June 2008, as no petitions were made against the amendments, following publication in the London Gazette on 11 April 2008, there was no requirement to refer them to the Universities Committee of the Privy Council. The amendments were referred to an ad hoc committee of the Privy Council on 27 March 2008: not all responses have been received to date.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in 2007-08. [215318]

Maria Eagle: My Department's expenditure with consultants in the financial year 2007-08 was £27 million. This is based upon provisional outturn figures and is therefore subject to change following audit.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212520]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice offers flexible working arrangements to the majority of our employees. Under these arrangements, the ability to work from home is one option that is available to most grades on both a formal and an ad hoc basis. There is no requirement to maintain records of arrangements centrally. This information could therefore be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212502]

Mr. Wills: The following data relate to permanent staff and staff on temporary contracts directly employed by the Ministry of Justice. The average hourly rate is based on a average full-time equivalent salary for each of the main grades as at 31 May 2008.

Staff employed by the Ministry of Justice below the SCS are attached to one of six grades called pay bands (bands A-F). The minimum and maximum of each pay band is further determined by location under our regional pay system. Inner London is in range 1, outer London is in range 2. Other locations across the UK are based in either range 3, 4 or 5.

The following figures are calculated on basic pay only. They do not include any allowances. NET hours have been used in the calculations.

We are unable to provide average salaries paid to staff employed through employment agencies. Salary paid to the individual is determined between the Temporary Staffing Agency and the individual. The Ministry does not monitor average salaries paid to such individuals centrally.

Band	*Range*	*Average hourly salary (£)*
Band A	Range 1	26.68
	Range 2	25.25
	Range 3	23.75
	Range 4	23.75
	Range 5	23.75
Band B	Range 1	18.08

Band	*Range*	*Average hourly salary (£)*
	Range 2	19.32
	Range 3	16.31
	Range 4	16.31
	Range 5	16.31
Band C	Range 1	15.14
	Range 2	14.71
	Range 3	13.50
	Range 4	13.03
	Range 5	11.96
Band D	Range 1	12.17
	Range 2	11.69
	Range 3	10.41
	Range 4	11.19
	Range 5	9.70
Band E	Range 1	10.17
	Range 2	9.69
	Range 3	8.44
	Range 4	8.24
	Range 5	7.35
Band F	Range 1	9.05
	Range 2	8.31
	Range 3	7.36
	Range 4	7.20
	Range 5	6.23

Senior civil servants are required to work a minimum (over a five-day week) of 41 hours in London or 42 hours elsewhere and are required to work such additional hours as may be reasonable and necessary for the efficient performance of their duties. This is reflected in their contracts.

HM Prison Service

The following figures are calculated on basic pay only. They do not include any allowances or local pay additions. NET hours have been used in the calculations. HMPS pay awards are payable from 1 April annually. These figures do not reflect the 2008 pay award which has not yet been implemented.

Non-phase 1 staff	*Average hourly rate (£)*
Admin Assistant	6.74
Admin Officer	8.26
Catering Manager	12.15
Chaplain Cond Hrs Pay Band 1	13.42
Chaplain Cond Hrs Pay Band 2	12.40
Chaplain CRHA Pay Band 1	14.24
Chaplain CRHA Pay Band 2	11.58
Substance Misuse Worker	10.11
Executive Officer	11.57
Farm Manager	12.98
Instructional Officer	11.62
Medical Officer	31.44
Part-time Medical Officer	27.56
Personal Secretary	9.65
Prof and Tech Officer	12.23
Psychological Assistant	7.64
Scientific Officer	13.27
Senior Medical Officer	36.60
Senior Personal Sec	12.05
SGB 1	7.81
SGB 2	7.01
SGB 2 Cleaner	6.60
Stores Officer C	11.15
Stores Officer D	10.43
Technical Grade 1	10.17
Trainee Psychologist	9.29
Typing Manager	11.43
Typist	7.58
Industrial staff	
Industrial Grade 1 Pattern A	10.08
Industrial Grade 1 Pattern B	11.62
Industrial Grade 1 Pattern C	13.39
Industrial Grade 2 Pattern A	9.48
Industrial Grade 2 Pattern B	10.85
Industrial Grade 2 Pattern C	12.49
Industrial Grade 3 Pattern A	8.70
Industrial Grade 3 Pattern B	9.95
Industrial Grade 3 Pattern C	11.41
Industrial Grade 4 Pattern A	7.76
Industrial Grade 4 Pattern B	8.83
Industrial Grade 4 Pattern C	10.26
Industrial Grade 5 Pattern A	7.36
Industrial Grade 5 Pattern B	8.39
Industrial Grade 5 Pattern C	9.75
Phase 1 staff	
Senior Manager A	38.95
Senior Manager B	35.13
Senior Manager C	31.28
Senior Manager D	26.69
Manager E	20.17
Manager F	16.24
Manager G	13.88
Unified staff	
Assistant Storeman	7.33
Auxiliary	6.65
Night Patrol	6.27
OSG	8.13
Principal Officer	15.94
Prison Officer	12.39
Senior Officer	14.82
Storeman	7.91

It has not been possible to obtain data on the average salaries paid to staff employed by employment agencies contracted to the Ministry of Justice within the time scales or costs available.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [208136]

(2) how much food waste in tonnes his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [212917]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice takes its commitment for effective waste management seriously and is currently implementing a waste management strategy across its estate. Food waste data for the past five years do not exist as the previous waste management system did not record food waste generated separately from general waste.

However, with the overall aim of providing an effective solution to sites with food waste disposal issues, HM Prisons Service (HMPS) has conducted two surveys into waste food at public sector managed prisons. The first survey was initiated in May 2006 and concluded in February 2007. A survey of this nature had not been conducted before and therefore prisons did experience problems in collating data. The second survey was conducted in December 2007 and concluded in January 2008.

The information has primarily been used to identify sites that experienced disposal issues and, consequently, as the foundation for the business case to introduce a sustainable methodology for dealing with this waste stream.

Results of food waste surveys

	2006	*2007*
Prisons responding to survey	32	51
Operational capacity	17,416	30,121
Average weekly food waste per prisoner (based on responses) (kilograms)	1.45	1.34
Average prison population for year	79,000	80,000
Weekly waste across prison estate (extrapolated)	115	107
Annual waste across prison estate (extrapolated)	5,957	5,574

The Prison Service has turned waste into a resource and revenue stream by sorting and selling paper, cardboard, metals and plastics; by reducing the costs of skips for unsorted waste and the costs of waste to landfill; re-using reclaimed items such as clothing; turning food waste into commercial grade compost; and converting used cooking oil into bio diesel for heating and some vehicles. The value of these cashable and efficiency savings are in excess of £3.5 million a year.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on the Information Commissioner, what the longest period is that a case has been awaiting *(a)* investigation and *(b)* classification since the establishment of the Information Commissioner's Office. [213092]

Mr. Wills: In the last financial year, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) took 182 days on average to close freedom of information cases from the date of receipt, and 45 days on average to close data protection cases from the date of receipt. Over 50 per cent. of both freedom of information and data protection cases were closed within 30 days of receipt.

The ICO does not hold historical information about the time taken to classify and allocate casework. Its historical reporting focuses on the time taken to resolve casework. However, it is able to provide this information for its current case load.

Currently, the oldest freedom of information case awaiting allocation to a complaints officer is 579 days old. There are four cases, received prior to January 2007 (i.e. over 535 days old), awaiting allocation.

The oldest freedom of information case currently awaiting classification is 23 days old.

Currently, the oldest data protection case awaiting allocation to a complaints officer is 149 days old. There are no cases prior to January 2008 awaiting allocation.

The oldest data protection case currently awaiting classification is 58 days old. Over 50 per cent. of all data protection casework is resolved at this classification stage.

Prisons: Telephones

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to harmonise the cost of telephone calls made from within prisons with comparable tariffs outside prison. [214411]

Maria Eagle: There are currently no plans to harmonise the cost of calls from prison with tariffs in the community. The prison pinphone system is a specific product to ensure safe and secure use of telephones by prisoners. Prices are not currently linked to public rates. The current contract is in place until 2011 and a re-tendering project will commence this year. However, we are implementing reductions for some international calls following negotiation with the provider.

Prisons: Video Games

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many computer game consoles are available for use by prisoners in prisons in England and Wales; and how much it costs to provide them. [205813]

Mr. Straw: This information has taken longer than expected to gather and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Probation: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are employed in the Probation Service in *(a)* Rhyl and *(b)* Colwyn Bay, broken down by grade. [214600]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of staff employed in the probation service in Colwyn Bay is shown as follows. The figures are full-time equivalent broken down by grade as at 31 May 2008. The Rhyl Probation Office closed in 2006 and all staff relocated to Colwyn Bay.

Colwyn Bay	*Total*
Deputy Chief Officer	0.00
Assistant Chief Officer	3.00
Area/District Manager	7.00
Probation Officer	27.93
Trainee Probation Officer	7.00
Probation Services Officer	13.81
Psychologist	0.00
Other Operational Staff	5.00
Support Staff Administration	27.96
Support Staff Other	0.00
Other Staff	0.00
Total	91.70

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* charged, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted for offences under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each of the last 10 years. [214437]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table. Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 came into force on 16 June 1997.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information on numbers proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
1997	507	249
1998	4,301	2,222
1999	5,540	2,753
2000	5,976	2,929
2001	5,873	2,806
2002	5,842	2,864
2003	5,891	3,020
2004	5,973	3,348
2005	5,678	3,635
2006	5,446	3,768

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 Sec 2 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec 32(1)(a),(3).
Racially Aggravated Offence of Harassment.
Religiously aggravated offence of harassment.
Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment.
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 Sec 2. Offence of Harassment.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 came into force on 16 June 1997.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many restraining orders were issued by courts following a conviction under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each of the last 10 years; and how many such orders have been breached. [214438]

Maria Eagle: The number of restraining orders issued and the number of persons sentenced for breaches of a restraining order are set out in the tables.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons sentenced[1] for breach of a restraining order, all courts, England and Wales 1997-2006

Offence	Year	Number of persons sentenced
Breach of a restraining order	1997	14
	1998	273
	1999	471
	2000	561
	2001	534
	2002	597
	2003	689
	2004	760
	2005	876
	2006	861

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services

Number of persons given a restraining order[1] for offences of harassment[2], all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

Disposal	Year	Offence of harassment	Racially aggravated offence of harassment	Religiously aggravated offence of harassment	Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment	Total
Restraining order (harassment)[3]	1997	—	—	—	—	—
	1998	15	—	—	—	15
	1999	30	—	—	—	30
	2000	30	—	—	—	30
	2001	34	1	—	—	35
	2002	56	4	—	—	60
	2003	101	7	1	2	111
	2004	95	10	—	—	105

Number of persons given a restraining order[1] for offences of harassment[2], all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

Disposal	*Year*	*Offence of harassment*	*Racially aggravated offence of harassment*	*Religiously aggravated offence of harassment*	*Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment*	*Total*
	2005	156	11			167
	2006	181	11	1	1	194

These data are on the principal offence basis.

Offences of harassment under Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.2 only have been included.

Section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 allows for a court sentencing a person convicted of an offence under either section 2 or section 4 of the Act to impose a restraining order. The disposal code used to determine the number of restraining orders given does not separately identify offences that fall under section 2 or section 4.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the use of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 to combat abuse and harassment committed via the internet. [214439]

Maria Eagle: The Protection from Harassment Act was introduced primarily to tackle stalking. A research study published by the Home Office in August 2000 showed that it was being used to deal with a variety of behaviour other than stalking, including domestic and inter-neighbour disputes. There has been no research into the use of the Act specifically in relation to the internet but the law applies to online as well as off-line behaviour and we know from press reports that it has been used to convict people of harassment committed through that medium.

Sexual Offences: Jurisdiction

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to apply extraterritorial jurisdiction to offences committed abroad by UK nationals which would be considered criminal under domestic law. [213822]

Maria Eagle: It is already an offence under section 72 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for a British citizen or UK resident to commit sex offences overseas against children under the age of 16 providing that such acts are also offences in the country where they are committed.

We have recently strengthened these provisions in section 72 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. When this section of the Act is implemented on 14 July it will be possible to prosecute a British citizen for child sex offences committed overseas regardless of whether the acts are legal in the country in question. We have also amended the relevant age for these provisions so that they will now apply to victims under the age of 18.

This change will mean that British citizens who travel abroad to exploit children will not be able to evade justice by targeting countries whose laws offer less protection to children than the laws of the UK.

Taking extraterritorial jurisdiction is a major step but we believe it is fully justified in respect of offences committed against children by our citizens abroad. We have no plans to extend this further at this stage.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213746]

(2) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department and its predecessor originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213747]

Mr. Wills: We do not hold central records of the furniture purchased in the last five years, to retrieve such information would involve manual checks of local records at disproportionate time and cost. The Ministry of Justice buys the vast majority of its furniture from OGC Buying Solutions frameworks. All furniture purchased from these frameworks are from legal and sustainable sources.

Within the National Offender Management Service, it is our policy to make furniture in-house from raw materials sourced from a range of suppliers, rather than buy the furniture as finished products.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213225]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions depreciates its assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212871]

Mrs. McGuire: The total amount spent by the Department on new capital investment and refurbishment of property in the last 10 years is set out in the following table.

The figures include the nationwide rollout of the new Jobcentre Plus network and other major departmental initiatives in The Pension Service and Debt Management.

It is not possible to supply the data by project, or to differentiate between new capital investment and refurbishment, as this information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£ million
1997-98	52.4
1998-99	14.6
1999-2000	23.3
2000-01	23.7
2001-02	77.8
2002-03	170.0
2003-04	282.3
2004-05	117.3
2005-06	278.9
2006-07	162.2

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213420]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not include in its balance sheet capital values of the land and buildings that it occupies. Properties are leased, the majority under a Private Finance Initiative contract with Land Securities Trillium.

Further information can be found in the departmental resource accounts at:

www.dwp.gov.uk

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211684]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available centrally in the format requested and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213275]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212313]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has commissioned one public inquiry in the last five years. On 1 October 2007 the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced jointly with the Lord Advocate an inquiry under the Inquires Act 2005 into the explosion and building collapse on the 11 May 2004 at the premises of ICL Plastics Ltd and ICL Tech Ltd in Glasgow which resulted in 9 deaths and 40 serious injuries.

The remit of the inquiry is to:

To inquire into the circumstances leading up to the incident on 11 May 2004 at the premises occupied by the ICL group of companies, Grovepark Mills, Maryhill, Glasgow.

To consider the issues arising from such an inquiry, including the regulation of the activities at Grovepark Mills.

To make recommendations in the light of the lessons identified from the causation and circumstances leading up to the incident.

To report as soon as practicable.

The cost of the inquiry, which is being shared equally between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Scottish Executive is not available because full public hearings have yet to commence.

The Government will consider the steps to be taken following receipt of the Inquiry's report.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213419]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions' target, agreed and published as part of the 2004 spending review, was to relocate 4,000 posts from London and the South East by the end of March 2008. As at 31 March 2008, 4,045 posts were relocated out of London and the South East with a further 21 posts awaiting relocation post March.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212045]

Mrs. McGuire: Final figures on branding and marketing expenditure for 2007-08 are not available this close to the end of the financial year.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212509]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table:

Average hourly rates of permanent and temporary staff in DWP by pay band—March 2008

		Hourly rate
Pay Band	*Permanent*	*Temporary*
Band A/Admin Assistant	£7.08	£6.61
Band B/Admin Officer	£8.51	£7.72
Band C/Executive Officer	£11.83	£11.35
Band D/Higher Exec Officer	£14.64	[1]
Band E/Senior Exec Officer	£17.67	[2]
Band F/Grade 7	£24.08	[2]
Band G/Grade 6	£30.61	[2]
Senior Civil Service - Permanent	£43.48	[2]

[1] Insufficient Staff
[2] No Staff

Notes:
1. The figures exclude all staff who are on unpaid leave, on reduced or nil pay through long-term sick absence, and staff on specialist pay scales such as accountants and lawyers.
2. The hourly rate has been calculated by dividing actual basic annual salaries by 52 to obtain the weekly rate, then the by 37 (36 for London staff) hours worked per week to obtain the rate per hour.
3. Basic salaries exclude all allowances and overtime payments.

Source:
DWP March 2008 payroll system on 31 March 2008.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average starting salary for a civil servant taking a position in his Department as their first job was in the latest period for which figures are available. [213566]

Mrs. McGuire: We do not record for those recruited to DWP whether or not it is their first job. Therefore it is not possible to accurately establish the average salaries of new civil servants who are joining DWP as their first job.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208527]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has had a contract with Spring Ltd since May 2003 for the dispatch of mail overseas. Details of expenditure with Spring Ltd are provided in the following table. Information prior to May 2003 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Yearly spend (£)
2003 (May)-04	245,417.22
2004-05	782,294.79
2005-06	616,385.00
2006-07	688,529.40
2007-08	679,510.97

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212005]

Mrs. McGuire: Information available regarding the cost of sick pay to staff in the Department is listed in the following table.

	£ million
2005-06	84.6
2006-07	77.4
2007-08	65.8

Previously, the information was not collated centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210562]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209239]

Mr. Plaskitt: The scale and diverse nature of the Department for Work and Pensions' estate makes the viability of a corporate nationwide green transport plan impractical. Therefore, at this time, neither the Department, nor any of its agencies, operates such a plan.

The Department's travel policies do, however, strongly promote sustainable commuting. This includes guidance for local managers to develop site specific plans and encourages them to do so. It allows them the flexibility to address and to fully take into account local issues, which is critical to ensuring practical solutions. Therefore individual site plans exist where specific measures have been identified or if a requirement of planning regulations.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 750W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fair Trade products. [211560]

Mrs. McGuire: In line with Government policy, the Department is committed to Fairtrade and ethical supply routes. This commitment is reflected in our contract with the Department's Estates partner, Land Securities Trillium (LST), who provides catering facilities at many of our sites.

The Department records details of expenditure only on beverages provided for official meetings and engagements. Fair trade tea and coffee has been served as standard for official receptions and meetings since February 2006. Details of related total expenditure and the proportion of this which was spent on Fair Trade products are provided in the following table.

April to March each year	*Total beverage sales (£)*	*Fair trade beverages sales (£)*	*Proportion of fair trade (Percentage)*
2005-06	186,000	£59,520	32.0
2006-07	348,920	£153,524	44.0
2007-08	627,949	£392,468	62.5

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* disability allowance. [212469]

Mrs. McGuire: From 27 October 2008, employment and support allowance will replace incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity or disability, for new customers. Existing customers will be migrated to employment and support allowance over time and as resources allow.

Disability living allowance remains under continual review to ensure that it continues to provide help with the extra costs that disabled people face.

Low Incomes: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children there were in families in work earning less than the average national weekly income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [211139]

Mr. Timms: The information is in the following table.

We have presented the number and proportion of all children who are in families in work in households with incomes below the median household income. This is in line with the "Households Below Average Income" publication.

Number and proportion of all children who are in families in work with below median household incomes

		Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
Coverage		*Number (Million)*	*Percentage below median income*	*Number (Million)*	*Percentage below median income*
GB	1997-98	5.1	40	5.3	42
	1998-99	5.2	41	5.3	42
	1999-2000	5.1	40	5.4	42
	2000-01	5.1	40	5.4	42
	2001-02	5.2	42	5.5	44
UK	2002-03	5.4	41	5.6	43
	2003-04	5.3	41	5.5	43
	2004-05	5.5	42	5.7	44
	2005-06	5.4	42	5.6	44
	2006-07	5.5	43	5.8	45

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data, which are sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years.

3. Up to 2005-06, a child was defined as anyone aged under 16 or anyone aged 16 to 18 who is not married, in a civil partnership nor living with a partner, who is living with parents and who is in full-time non-advanced education or unwaged Government training. From 2006-07, this definition was extended to include 19-year-olds fulfilling these conditions to be in line with child benefit eligibility.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. Net incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

6. The median income is the income of the middle person in the population, such that half the population have incomes below the median and half the population have incomes above the median. The median is used instead of the mean income because the mean is affected by outlying cases with very high income values. This is consistent with relevant public service agreement indicators and the "Households Below Average Income" publication.

7. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

8. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.

9. Number of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

10. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

11. A working family has been defined as one where at least one adult is in work, either through being self-employed, working full-time or working part-time.

12. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one of more families.

Source:

"Households Below Average Income", DWP

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what type of sanctions were available in respect of each New Deal scheme in each year since 1997; how many sanctions of each type were imposed in each year; and how many were subsequently *(a)* retracted and *(b)* commuted. [212468]

Mr. Timms: A sanction can only be imposed in relation to mandatory new deal schemes. These are new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus. New deal for musicians is a voluntary option within each of these two schemes. New deal for lone parents, new deal for disabled people and new deal for partners are voluntary programmes and benefit sanctions are not applied to these programmes.

People on these schemes may have their benefit sanctioned if they:-

lose their place on a programme because of misconduct.

give up or refuse to attend a programme.

fail to apply for or accept a place on a programme.

'neglect to avail' themselves of a place on a programme.

These sanctions are for a fixed period of two weeks, rising to four weeks and then 26 weeks for repeat occurrences within the previous 12 months. The two week and four week sanctions have been in place since the introduction of the mandatory new deal schemes in 1998. The 26 week sanction was introduced in April 2001.

Information on how many sanctions of each type were imposed in each year; and how many were subsequently retracted has been placed in the Library.

Information on how many were subsequently commuted is not available.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212119]

Mrs. McGuire: No Ministers or officials from this Department are planning on attending the Beijing Olympic games.

Pensions: Public Participation

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses received by his Department during the consultation exercise conducted between 28 October and 23 December 2003 on the implementation of the European Directive on the Activities and Supervision of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision, relating to the application of Article 8 of the Directive to the Local Government Pension Scheme; [213966]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses received by his Department during the consultation exercise conducted between 28 October and 23 December 2003 on the implementation of the European directive on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision, relating to the application of Article 18 of the directive to the local government pension scheme; [213967]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses received by his Department during the consultation exercise conducted between 28 October and 23 December 2003 on the implementation of the European Directive on the Activities and Supervision of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision, relating to the exemption of the Local Government Pension Scheme from the requirements of Articles 9 to 17 of the Directive. [213968]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am advised that we have received no responses specifically concerning the implementation of the European directive on the activities and supervision of Institutions for occupational retirement provision relating to the application of Articles 8, 18 and 5 (exclusion from the requirements of Articles 9 to 17) of the directive to the local government pension scheme. However, copies of all the responses received by the Department during the consultation exercise relating to the general implementation of Articles 8,18 and 5 have been placed in the Library. A copy of the original consultation document has also been provided together with a copy of the Government's summary response to the consultation.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children were in relative poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in each year since 1997, broken down by age. [211156]

Mr. Timms: This information is in the following tables.

Children have been split by age into four age bands. This is in line with the age breakdown presented in the 'Households Below Average Income' publication.

Number and proportion of children in households below 60 per cent. of median income by age group (before housing costs)

Number of children (million)

Age of child

Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16+*	*All*
GB	1997-98	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.3	3.4
	1998-99	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.3	3.3
	1999-2000	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.2	3.3
	2000-01	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.2	3.0
	2001-02	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.3	2.9
UK	2002-03	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.3	2.9
	2003-04	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.2	2.9
	2004-05	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.3	2.7
	2005-06	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.3	2.8
	2006-07	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.3	2.9

Proportion of children (percentage)

Age of child

Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16+*	*All*
GB	1997-98	27	28	26	22	27
	1998-99	27	28	25	21	26
	1999-2000	28	25	25	19	26
	2000-01	25	22	24	20	23
	2001-02	25	22	23	21	23
UK	2002-03	23	22	23	22	23
	2003-04	23	21	23	19	22
	2004-05	22	20	22	21	21
	2005-06	22	21	23	21	22
	2006-07	23	22	22	21	22

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Number and proportion of children in households below 60 per cent. of median income by age group (after housing costs)

		Number of children (million)				
		Age of child				
Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16+*	*All*
GB	1997-98	1.3	1.5		0.3	4.2
	1998-99	1.3	1.5		0.3	4.3
	1999-2000	1.3	1.4		0.3	4.2
	2000-01	1.2	1.4		0.3	3.9
	2001-02	1.1	1.3		0.3	3.9
UK	2002-03	1.1	1.3		0.3	3.9
	2003-04	1.1	1.2		0.3	3.7
	2004-05	1.1	1.1		0.3	3.6
	2005-06	1.1	1.2		0.4	3.8
	2006-07	1.2	1.2		0.4	3.9

		Proportion of children (percentage)				
		Age of child				
Coverage		*0 to 4*	*5 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16+*	*All*
GB	1997-98	35	35	32	26	33
	1998-99	37	35	32	26	34
	1999-2000	37	32	32	25	33
	2000-01	34	31	31	26	31
	2001-02	33	31	30	27	31
UK	2002-03	32	29	29	27	30
	2003-04	31	28	28	24	29
	2004-05	31	27	29	26	28
	2005-06	32	29	30	28	30
	2006-07	34	31	28	27	30

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
3. Up to 2005-06, a child was defined as anyone aged under 16 or anyone aged 16 to 18 who is not married, in a civil partnership nor living with a partner, who is living with parents and who is in full-time non-advanced education or unwaged Government training. From 2006-07, this definition was extended to include 19-year-olds fulfilling these conditions to be in line with child benefit eligibility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. The Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.
7. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are. This means that After Housing Cost incomes ill generally be lower than Before Housing Cost.
8. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point. Ages have been split into four bands because of sample sizes. Total numbers of children are in line with National Statistics mid-year estimates.
9. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Remploy: York

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision his Department made to support those working at Remploy in York at the time of its closure. [210231]

Mrs. McGuire: Local Jobcentre Plus staff have been working with Remploy to provide help and advice to their York employees since December 2007. Employees were initially given job seeking and benefits advice, which included personal interviews for all disabled employees with a Disability Employment Adviser.

Remploy have provided a comprehensive package to all affected Remploy employees, including those at York. This included the provision of a permanent Remploy Employment adviser dedicated to ensuring that disabled employees are placed successfully into new jobs. In addition, Remploy has contracted with a specialist York based provider, Future Prospects to work proactively with key stakeholders to help Remploy's disabled employees, including the allocation of specialist learning and work advisers.

Jobcentre Plus has liaised with Remploy Advisers to provide vacancy information and have given all affected Remploy York employees day one eligibility to access Jobcentre Plus programmes and provision immediately.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former employees at Remploy in York have found new employment, broken down by *(a)* employer and *(b)* location. [210232]

Mrs. McGuire: Of the 21 former Remploy York employees who requested a work placement through Remploy Employment Services, four are on pre-placement activities, for example job search and preparation, and a total of 15 have been placed in permanent work, mainstream work trials or placements in a more supportive environment. Information on the employer and location for each of the 15 is in the following table.

Employer	*Location*	*Number employed*
Age Concern	Acomb, York	1
Sodexo	Fulford Road, York	1
St Mikes Church	Minster Yard, York	1
Age Concern	Walmgate, York	1
Halfords	Foss Island, York	2
British Heart Foundation	Strensall, York	1
Asda	Monks Cross, York	2
Tesco	Tadcaster Road, York	3
British Heart Foundation	Acomb, York	1
York Minster	Minster Yard, York	1
Future Prospects	York	1

Source:
Remploy

Eight former Remploy York employees who opted for voluntary redundancy or early retirement are receiving help from Remploy to find work. A further two former employees have found work in York City Centre, working for Kindom.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the establishment of the Integrated Employment and Skills Service cost. [211134]

Mr. Timms: The Integrated Employment and Skills Service will commence in 2010-11 and will be delivered primarily by Jobcentre Plus and the new adult advancement and careers service. Design and development work is under way to test the new service from autumn 2008.

In order to take forward our plans for an Integrated Employment and Skills Service through the creation of the advancement and careers service and skills accounts, we have set aside new funding rising to at least £50 million a year by 2010-11.

Further investment of £2.0 million in 2008-09 and a further £2.0 million in 2009-10 has been made available to support the development of advancement prototypes to test the most effective ways of providing access to wider sources of advice.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Integrated Employment and Skills Service employs. [211142]

Mr. Timms: The Integrated Employment and Skills Service is not a new organisation but the title for a new offer for customers, which will be delivered primarily by Jobcentre Plus and the new adult advancement and careers service. It does not involve the creation of a new organisation and will be delivered by existing staff from the key delivery organisations although capacity will be kept under review as the new offer is implemented.

Social Security Benefits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the levels of welfare dependency in each of the last 10 years; [208863]

(2) what assessment he has made of levels of welfare dependency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [213564]

Mr. Timms: There is no simple definition of the term welfare dependency. The Department's policies aim to reduce the numbers claiming out-of-work benefits by helping individuals, particularly long-term claimants and others at a particular disadvantage in the labour market, to move into and progress in work. The number on out of work benefits has fallen by over a million — or around 20 per cent. — in the past ten years. The figures in the following table show the number of working age people claiming an out-of-work benefit in November each year since 1998.

Numbers of working age claiming out-of-work benefits

Date (As at November each year)	*Jobseeker's allowance (claimant count)*[1]	*Incapacity benefits*[2]	*Lone parents on income support (IS)*[3]	*Carer*[4]	*Other (IS others and pension credit)*[3, 5]
1998	1,325,300	2,643,730	938,950		229,380
1999	1,184,100	2,674,710	930,240	316,500	218,370
2000	1,035,600	2,722,570	905,760	311,560	196,690
2001	959,700	2,746,020	878,590	328,620	179,080
2002	936,400	2,776,560	856,230	343,720	161,360
2003	913,000	2,780,490	831,750	353,250	154,200
2004	829,500	2,772,180	796,530	361,420	157,940
2005	900,900	2,710,500	778,560	363,340	155,740
2006	947,700	2,672,960	775,620	371,710	161,100
2007	814,400	2,641,700	741,830	379,350	167,290

[1] UK figures (seasonally adjusted) published by ONS. This 100 per cent. series is the most reliable and up-to-date source for claimant unemployment

[2] GB figures (not seasonally adjusted). Published by DWP back to August 1999 as part of the 100 per cent. working age client group analysis. Earlier consistent figures have been created by combining information from the previously published five per cent. sample data with the WPLS data. A consistent series for the UK as a whole is not readily available.

[3] GB figures (not seasonally adjusted). Published by DWP back to August 1999 as part of the 100 per cent. working age client group analysis. Before this point a five per cent. sample series is used, scaled to be consistent with the 100 per cent. data.

[4] Figures on carers are only available from November 1999 onwards.

[5] Other income related benefit: includes claimants on income support who are sick and cannot claim incapacity benefit.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a list of the benefits and payments made available by his Department and the conditions required to claim each of those benefits and payments. [211775]

Mr. Plaskitt: To place the comprehensive and detailed information requested in the Library would incur disproportionate cost.

However, information about all the Department's services, including the qualifying conditions for benefits and payments and the level of entitlements, is made generally available in a wide range of formats. For instance Directgov (www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm) provides a 'beginner's guide to benefits', including guides to enable customers to work out if they are able to get any state benefit assistance particularly if they are sick, have a low income or dependent children; an overview of the benefits system, including how payments are made and how to make a claim; and changes that affect benefits.

Comprehensive and detailed information concerning the legal requirements for entitlement to benefits and payments is set out in the law relating to social security which is available in the Library and online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/docs/lawvols/bluevol/

State Retirement Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the basic state pension was as a percentage of average earnings in each year since 1978. [207203]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The information requested is already published in the "Annual Abstract of Statistics", in Table 5.1 at the link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/abstract/Abstract2006.pdf

Student: Sight Impaired

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people affected by changes in the rules governing the funding of the VIEW national diploma for piano tuners; [211949]

(2) how many blind applicants to courses leading to the VIEW national diploma for piano tuners there were in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; what assessment he has made of the effect of the changes to funding arrangements on take-up of diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [211953]

Mrs. McGuire: We do not believe that anyone has been adversely affected by the changes. Information about the number of applicants to courses leading to the VIEW national diploma for piano tuners is not available as figures are not available broken down by course.

Information about the number of customers starting the VIEW national diploma for piano tuners is in the table.

Number of customers starting the VIEW national diploma for piano tuners

April to March each year	*Number of starts on the programme*
2006-07	2
2007-08	2

Residential training, as with other specialist disability employment programmes, is kept under regular review through the contract management process. We work closely with all colleges to carefully assess the overall impact of recent contractual changes and agree suitable ways forward.

Taylor Nelson Sofres

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of contracts awarded to Taylor Nelson Sofres by his Department was in each year since 1997. [201662]

Mrs. McGuire: Information from 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

However, since 2003 my Department has awarded the following contracts to Taylor Nelson Sofres.

	Title	*Cost (£)*
2003	Reforming services to pensioners: Testing pension service design elements with customers	97,500
2004	Pension credit tracking research	26,750
2005	Initial evaluation of the Phase 1 Age Partnership Group (APG) "Be Ready" national guidance campaign products	58,000
	Baseline survey for new deal for skills adult learning option	255,410
2006	Evaluation of the Phase 2 Age Partnership Group (APG) "Be Ready" national guidance campaign products	69,125
2007	Marketing material to build awareness of CSA's enforcement powers	5,000

TREASURY

Block Grant: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list any proposed changes to the block grant arrangements for Northern Ireland following recent discussions between the Government, the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin. [213119]

Yvette Cooper: There are no proposed changes to the block grant arrangements for Northern Ireland.

Child Tax Credit

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on child poverty of extending the current baby addition element to children *(a)* under two years and *(b)* under five years. [211252]

Jane Kennedy: Extending the baby addition element of the child tax credit to families with one or more children under two, would lift around 50,000 out of poverty, at a cost of around £300 million a year.

Extending the baby addition element of the child tax credit to families with one or more children under five, would lift around 100,000 children out of poverty, at a cost of around £1 billion a year.

Child Tax Credit Helpline

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the Child Tax Credits Helpline received in each quarter in each of the last five years; and what the ratio of complaints to new cases was in each such period. [206919]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* HMRC operates the tax credits helpline. This covers both child tax credit and working tax credit. I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 2004W, which detailed the number of complaints received about the tax credits helpline in each quarter to 31 March 2006. The following table provides the figures for the year to 31 March 2007.

Quarter	*2006-07*
1	430
2	527
3	588
4	546

For the year ended 31 March 2008 figures are available only at disproportionate cost.

The figure for the number of new tax credits claims received that have gone on to successful awards in each quarter is:

Quarter	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
1	322,000	270,000	249,000	224,000
2	297,000	269,000	244,000	274,000
3	308,000	295,000	270,000	277,000
4	297,000	261,000	282,000	263,000

Figures for the year 2003-04 are not available.

Crime: Computers

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of electronic crime to the UK economy in the last 12 months. [212699]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

While there are data on aspects of the problem, there is no central estimate of the cost of cybercrime to the economy in 2007-08.

APACS, the UK's financial association have made estimates on the cost of fraud committed online born by the financial institutions. The most recently published APACS figures (March 2008) for card not present fraud (CNP) show that in 2007 £223.8 million of CNP losses took place over the internet. This accounts for 77 per cent. of total CNP losses and is an increase of 45 per cent. from 2006. APACS figures also show that in 2007 total losses for online banking fraud were £22.6 million, a decrease of 33 per cent. from the previous year.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214708]

Angela Eagle: Leases on areas occupied by Treasury agencies and non-departmental public bodies in the following buildings will expire during the next four years:

Rosebery Court, Norwich
Royal Liver Building, Liverpool

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213411]

Angela Eagle: Following the Lyons Review in 2004, the Treasury Group committed to relocate 26.5 posts by 2007-08. This target was achieved by March 2007. Since then a further 11.5 posts have been relocated.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 38W, on departmental pay, what the minimum and maximum of each pay range listed are. [214746]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the information published on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1635-38W.

The revised information for the senior civil service with effect from 1 April 2008 is as follows:

	Pay range (£) at 1 April 2008	
Pay band	*Minimum*	*Recruitments performance ceiling*
1	57,300	116,000
2	81,600	160,000
3	99,960	205,000

	Pay range (£) at 1 April 2008	
	Minimum	*Maximum*
Permanent secretaries	139,740	273,250

In addition the Treasury pays a London allowance of £2,000 to those in pay band 1.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214123]

Angela Eagle: The mandatory retirement age in the Treasury is 65. Before the change in legislation in October 2006 the mandatory retirement age was 60. We have received no applications to work beyond the mandatory retirement age in each of the last five years.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214709]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's commitment to equal opportunities applies equally to staff seconded into the organisation as to permanent staff. All secondees are required to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, specific details from which feed into the HR management information which is used to monitor trends and for reporting purposes.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in (i) the Senior Civil Service and (ii) other Civil Service grades are (A) located in and (B) seconded to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [214748]

Angela Eagle: The number of employees currently (A) located in and (B) seconded to the Department for Children, Schools and Families can be found in the following table:

	Senior civil service	*Other civil service grades*
HM Treasury	1	2
Office of Government and Commerce	0	0
OGC Buying Solutions	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0

EU: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the end location of money underspent within the EU budget since 1997; what the sum was in each year; and whether any overspend was returned to the Exchequer. [214163]

Kitty Ussher: Any budget surplus from one year's EC Budget is entered as revenue in the following year's Budget by means of an amending Budget for that year. Since 1997 the surpluses which have been returned in the following year have been as follows:

	€ billion
1997	0.100
1998	3.022
1999	2.825
2000	11.613
2001	15.003
2002	7.413
2003	5.470
2004	2.737
2005	2.410
2006	1.848
2007	1.529

The return of these surpluses in the following year serve to reduce member states contributions in that year by a reduction in their respective GNI-based contributions. The UK would therefore have seen a reduction in its contribution in line with its GNI share in each instance.

Financial Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to publish the Financial Capability Action Plan; [213957]

(2) when he plans to publish details of the Thoresen Review Pathfinder. [213956]

Kitty Ussher: The Government will publish the Financial Capability Action Plan, jointly with the Financial Services Authority, in July. The Action Plan will include further detail on the Money Guidance Pathfinder.

London and Continental Railways: Finance

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of support to London and Continental Railways by means of *(a)* public expenditure and *(b)* the granting of Government guarantees. [186904]

Yvette Cooper: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced in February 2006 that London and Continental Railways (LCR) would be classified as a public sector corporation. This was backdated to 1999. As such LCR's net financial position is treated as public expenditure, and scores against the Department for Transport's departmental expenditure limit. To date, expenditure by the company has scored as £5,828 million within capital budgets and £2,022 million within current budgets. The departmental expenditure limit has not been increased to accommodate LCR costs.

Much of the cash flow for LCR's expenditure is funded through external borrowing, of which some has been backed by government guarantees. These guarantees have been reported to Parliament as contingent liabilities and recorded in the Resource Accounts of the Department for Transport on the same basis as UKGAAP.

Contingent liabilities are defined as being contingent on an event, or a set of events, whose likelihood of occurring has been accepted by independent auditors as being remote.

Minimum Wage

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on the minimum wage, how many people were found to be paid below the minimum wage in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [214593]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not hold national minimum wage statistical data by reference to local authority.

Office of Government Commerce: Contracts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances potential bidders for Office of Government Commerce contracts are required to pre-qualify for the award of any such contracts. [214763]

Angela Eagle: The Public Contracts Regulations regulates the procurement procedures to be followed by the Office of Government Commerce and OGCbuying.Solutions where the value of the requirement exceeds certain thresholds, starting at £90,319. These regulations include a selection stage that sets out certain pre-qualification information which purchasing authorities may seek from prospective tenderers, such as the candidate company's legal status, their financial standing and technical capacity and capability to undertake the contract.

Most public procurements will follow a two-stage process whereby purchasers will assess the pre-qualification information provided by companies in order to determine those suitable to proceed to the tender stage of the procurement.

Poynter Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the final report of the Poynter Review of data security. [214760]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer did so on 25 June. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the factual paper on the Barnett formula. [214759]

Yvette Cooper: No decision has been made yet on the date of publication.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct HM Revenue and Customs to postpone the closure of Chorley HM Revenue and Customs to allow for the formulation of a business case for remaining open. [212284]

Jane Kennedy: My answer to my hon. Friend of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 615W, explained that the decision to close the Chorley office was taken, following an eight week consultation exercise which allowed staff, unions and key external stakeholders ample opportunity to comment on the proposals. HMRC do not have a business reason to retain the office and therefore have no plans to postpone the closure. The inquiry centre will be maintained either in the current building or nearby.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much it is expected will be saved by closing Truro tax office. [213623]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have too much office space and are engaged in a review programme to decide which offices should be retained as best suiting its future business needs. The two HMRC offices in Truro have been grouped in a cluster for review purposes with those in Falmouth, Redruth and St. Austell, and proposals were published on 11 June 2008. Both Truro offices have been proposed for vacation, but final decisions are not expected until later this year. Detailed feasibility work on how much HMRC might expect to save by the proposals is still at an early stage, but potential estate cost savings alone are estimated to be in the region of £180,000 per year.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a page on his Department's website to chart HM Revenue and Customs' progress in implementing the recommendations of the Poynter Review of information security. [215282]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's current progress with implementing the Poynter Report recommendations is detailed at Section XV of the report, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Subsequent progress on data security will be reported in HMRC's Departmental Report and Accounts, in this, and future years with copies posted on the HMRC website.

Revenue and Customs: Operating Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the operating costs of each tax office in Cornwall were in 2007-08. [212598]

Jane Kennedy: The accommodation running costs for HMRC's estate in Cornwall as a whole were £1,612,601 in 2007-08. This is comprised of building rent, business rates, service and utility costs for its seven properties in the county, namely, Penhaligon House, St. Austell, Piran House, Redruth, Penlowarth, Penzance, Lysnoweth and Pydar House, Truro, Madford House, Launceston and Custom House, Falmouth

A specific breakdown for each office cannot be supplied for reasons of commercial sensitivity relating to the accommodation and facility contract between HMRC and its estate partner, Mapeley.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations spent on their buildings in Scotland in each year since 1997. [213087]

Jane Kennedy: Expenditure details prior to April 2005 and the creation of HM Revenue and Customs are not available other than at disproportionate cost. HM Revenue and Customs' fixed accommodation cash running costs on its office buildings in Scotland for the last three years was:

	Cash cost (net of VAT) (£)
2005-06	31,468,120
2006-07	33,850,205
2007-08	34,733,990

These costs are made up of the PFI unitary charge for the provision of the serviced accommodation in PFI properties, rent and landlord service charge for non-PFI properties, facilities management costs (the provision of soft services, e.g. security and cleaning), business rates and utilities. These figures are gross of the cost of other Government Departments' minor occupation of HMRC's office buildings in Scotland.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213552]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not commissioned or funded the production of any television programmes in the last three years or during 2008-09 to date.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213710]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213711]

Angela Eagle: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Treasury actively seeks to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder in relation to the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years of age were issued in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 2004; how many of these resulted in an unpaid fine in each area, and what the average fine levied was. [200477]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the offence of selling alcohol to a person under 18 years of age in each year since 2004 in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* by police force area can be viewed in the following table. The table also includes the number of PNDs not paid by the end of statutory enforcement period, which were registered as fines *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* by police force area.

The offence attracts an £80 penalty. Where the offender either fails to pay the penalty or opts for a court hearing, a fine of one and half times the penalty amount (£120) is registered against them.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, for the offence of "selling, alcohol to a person aged under 18" by police force area and outcome, England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2004[1]		2005		2006	
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	56	5	54	4
Bedfordshire	0	0	2	0	13	4
Cambridgeshire	0	0	11	0	29	1
Cheshire	0	0	49	3	50	4
Cleveland	0	0	33	1	23	3
Cumbria	0	0	23	0	21	2
Derbyshire	0	0	8	1	30	3
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	82	7	115	15
Dorset	22	4	22	0	29	5
Durham	0	0	0	0	1	0
Essex	7	0	120	6	94	12
Gloucestershire	0	0	42	5	54	6
Greater Manchester	0	0	127	28	211	32
Hampshire	2	1	67	9	109	10
Hertfordshire	0	0	3	0	41	3
Humberside	2	0	45	4	48	4
Kent	0	0	10	6	5	1
Lancashire	30	27	190	27	206	27
Leicestershire	2	0	46	6	59	10
Lincolnshire	0	0	26	2	57	7
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	2	0	73	16	127	15
Metropolitan Police	21	3	461	28	252	29
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	10	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	11	0
Northamptonshire	1	1	39	6	34	6
Northumbria	1	1	48	3	84	19
Nottinghamshire	9	0	117	17	265	42
South Yorkshire	2	0	107	9	158	20
Staffordshire	0	0	19	1	75	7
Suffolk	0	0	19	1	21	2
Surrey	0	0	0	0	34	2
Sussex	0	0	63	2	216	27
Thames Valley	0	0	12	0	95	10
Warwickshire	0	0	3	1	5	0

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, for the offence of "selling, alcohol to a person aged under 18" by police force area and outcome, England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2004[1]		2005		2006	
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*	*Number issued*	*Total unpaid*
West Mercia	1	0	22	1	34	2
West Midlands	6	2	114	15	143	24
West Yorkshire	4	0	72	13	105	24
Wiltshire	0	0	8	1	18	5
England	112	39	1,839	224	2,936	368
Dyfed Powys	0	0	18	0	9	1
Gwent	0	0	20	2	50	15
North Wales	1	0	58	12	83	21
South Wales	0	0	123	15	117	14
Wales	1	0	219	29	259	51
England and Wales	113	39	2,058	253	3,195	439

[1] Offence added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004, therefore PND information for this year is for November and December only.

[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Sell alcohol to a person under 18
S.169A Licensing Act 1964
Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18
s.146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003
The latter statute replaced the former in November 2005.

[3] The British Transport Police began issuing PNDs in 2006. However, none were issued by them for this offence.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:
Penalty notice for disorder (PND) database held by CJEA (Criminal Justice, Evidence and Analysis)
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice

Asylum: Iraq

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the operation of the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme, with particular reference to *(a)* the provisional and transitional arrangements for (i) accommodation, (ii) schooling, (iii) language training and (iv) other support, *(b)* longer term plans for those benefiting from the scheme and *(c)* the position of those currently located in third countries. [212015]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Since we announced our intention to help those who served our forces in Iraq families have begun arriving in the UK, with more to come this summer. They are given housing, English lessons, financial support and have a case worker who helps them to resettle and access health and education services. Accommodation is provided through a variety of providers who assess the housing needs of families to provide suitable short and long term accommodation. Advice and training to enable access to work is also provided by appropriate agencies.

By providing both current and former locally engaged staff with indefinite leave to remain in the UK we are showing a real commitment to providing a new start for the staff who have worked for us in Iraq. The first group of former staff were interviewed (in a third country) by UK Border Agency staff in May 2008 and those accepted will arrive in the UK from July onwards. The UK Border Agency will return in July to interview the second group of former locally engaged staff.

British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 967W, on the British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill, if she will place in the Library a copy of the file; and if she will make a statement. [214047]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member with the information it is appropriate to release.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Life in the UK Test was *(a)* taken by an applicant and *(b)* passed in each year since its introduction. [214007]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 June 2008]:* Applicants may take the Life in the UK Test as many times as they wish but records are not kept of how many times each individual applicant takes the test. The number of tests taken and passed since its introduction is:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 January to April*	*All tests to date*
Total tests	7,398	155,879	308,126	101,386	572,789
Pass	5,249	105,403	214,705	73,424	398,781
Fail	2,149	50,476	93,421	27,962	174,008
Pass rate (percentage)	71.0	67.6	69.7	72.4	69.6

Colonel Karuna

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the detention of Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, commonly known as Colonel Karuna, a Sri Lankan citizen; what his immigration status is; and whether he is being considered for deportation. [213816]

Mr. Byrne: It is the general policy of the UK Border Agency not to disclose to a third party personal information about another person, including information concerning their immigration status, as well as personal details, mainly for reasons of privacy, data protection and child protection.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department over what period her Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213228]

Mr. Byrne: The Department depreciates its fixed assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [211003]

Mr. Byrne: The Department recorded spend of £1.17 million on domestic flights in financial year 2007-08; information on the number of domestic flights undertaken by Home Office can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Criminal Records Bureau spent £4,000 on 16 flights; Identity and Passport Service spent £472,000 on approximately 2,500 flights.

The above figures are subject to audit of the Department's 2007-08 Resource Accounts.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of the property held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212886]

Mr. Byrne: Details of the value of property held, including valuation dates, can be found at Notes 1 and 14 to the Department's 2006-07 Resource Accounts on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-06-07

The value of property held by the following executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) can be found in their own published annual reports and accounts for 2006-07 which can be obtained from the Stationery Office, relevant body or at the following website addresses:

Public body	*Website*
Serious Organised Crime Agency	http://www.soca.gov.uk/assessPublications/socaAnnualReport0708.html
Independent Police Complaints Commission	http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/index/resources/evidence_reports/corp_reports-plans.htm
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc07/0757/0757.asp
Security Industry Authority	http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/aboutsia/publications/publications_financial.htm

Values for National Policing Improvement Agency, which formed on 1 April 2007, will become available when its 2007-08 set of accounts is finalised.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, which former special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused permission by her Department to take up an outside appointment on leaving their post since May 2005. [210921]

Mr. Byrne: Personal information about the applications submitted by special advisers, and other Crown servants, is made public only in accordance with the principles and practices followed in the operation of the Business Appointment Rules. This information, which includes details of the appointments of the most senior staff and statistical data about cases at the more junior levels, is published on the website of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (www.acoba.gov.uk) and in its reports.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years. [191499]

Mr. Byrne: Data for staff joining above the age of 55 are unavailable and will incur disproportionate cost to collect.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [213303]

Mr. Byrne: Within the Home Office Headquarters and the UK Border Agency, bonuses may be awarded in the form of annual, appraisal-related awards based on exceptional contribution throughout the year; or special bonuses for exceptional outstanding achievements by staff in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the senior salaries review body report number 62.

Table 1 provides information about the amount paid in end of year bonuses (annual appraisal related) and special bonuses in 2006-07 to staff working within Home Office and its Agencies (UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) and includes information for senior civil servants.

The largest single payment paid was £20,000 as end of year bonus, which was awarded to a member of the senior civil service in line with Cabinet Office guidance on SCS bonus payments.

Bonus type	*Amount paid*	*Number of payments made*	*Total number of eligible staff*	*Proportion of staff receiving a bonus*
End of year[1]	5,735,416	9,261	27,681	33
Special	3,028,464	7,099	[2]28,163	25

[1] IPS staff do not receive appraisal related bonuses, but are eligible for end of year "corpotate bonuses"

[2] CRB do not have end of year bonuses, but the 482 staff are eligible to receive in-year "special" bonuses

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much sick pay to staff in her Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211863]

Mr. Byrne: We are unable to provide the information requested from available sources and commissioning a special report would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which trade unions represent members of staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212481]

Mr. Byrne: Staff in Home Office headquarters are represented by the unions FDA, the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and Prospect.

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau are represented by PCS; in the Identity and Passport Service by FDA and PCS; and in the UK Border Agency by FDA, PCS, Prospect and the Immigration Service Union.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures her Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if she will make a statement; [213130]

(2) what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in her Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if she will make a statement. [213150]

Mr. Byrne: The current position is that all staff recruited to posts within the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) are subject to criminal records checks as part of the National Security Vetting (NSV). Checks are not random. Vetting is reviewed at various times during service.

Table 1 shows the number of individuals subject to NSV.

Machinery of Government changes will have affected those to whom NSV applied over the last 10 years.

The figures also include renewal of security clearance; not all refusals of NSV will have been for reasons of criminality.

All figures include those HM Prison Service posts where the Home Office Departmental Security Unit was required to complete the security clearance. HM Prison Service became an agency of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

	Granted NSV[1]	*Refused NSV*[2]	*Total*
1 April 1999 to 31 March 1999	10,708	240	10,948
1 April to 31 March 2000	12,829	303	13,132
1 April 2000 to 31 January 2001	20,928	694	21,622
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	26,079	767	26,846
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	30,391	1,188	31,579
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	27,237	2,251	29,488
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	24,155	1,239	25,393
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	26,592	1,305	27,897
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	27,535	1,827	29,363
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	21,151	1,018	22,169
Total	227,605	10,832	238,437

[1] Numbers include cases where a criminal record did not preclude granting of NSV

[2] Numbers include applicants who withdrew or where a criminal record may have resulted in refusal

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by her in the last six months. [201751]

Mr. McNulty: The information for each member could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, a manual check of the parliamentary questions database showed that it took on average, seven days to answer written questions tabled by the hon. Member from the start of the 2007-08 Session to 23 June 2008.

Deportation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals deported from the UK were prohibited from return for a fixed period in each of the last five years. [213917]

Mr. Byrne: All nationals deported from the UK are prohibited from returning to the UK when a deportation order is in place. A deportation order will remain in place unless or until it is revoked.

Dungavel Immigration and Detention Centre

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Children's Commissioner for Scotland has visited Dungavel Immigration and Detention Centre; when she last reported to her Department on the centre; and if she will make a statement. [212928]

Mr. Byrne: The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland has visited Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre on two occasions—June 2004 and April this year.

No formal report was received following either visit.

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the most recent report was received from HM Inspector of Prisons on the running of Dungavel Immigration and Detention Centre; and if she will make a statement. [212929]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent HM Inspector of Prisons' report on the running of Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), which was described as the best run IRC ever inspected, was published on 16 May 2007.

Electronic Crime

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding was made available to tackle electronic crime in each of the past five years; [212697]

(2) how many businesses in England and Wales were estimated to have been victims of electronic crime in each of the last five years. [212698]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office allocates core grants to police forces on an annual basis without stipulating where the grant should be spent.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) also receives a delegated budget for law enforcement. One of SOCA's precursor organisations, the National Crime Squad, received a budget for law enforcement as well as specific allocated funding for the National Hi-Tech Crime Team (NHTCU). At SOCA's inception, in 2006, £8.509 million, in respect of NHTCU, was baselined into SOCA's funding. SOCA has a dedicated e-crime unit and its budget is decided by the SOCA Board.

The SOCA budget also includes funding for the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP). In the financial year 2006-07 CEOP received a budget from SOCA of £5.110 million; this was increased to £5.657 million for 2007-08; and is £5.77 million for 2008-09.

The Government take this form of crime seriously, and are currently considering how best to tackle such crimes. No decision has been taken on the formation of an e-crime unit, but we are considering how we take an overall approach to issues such as electronic fraud, and are discussing these with a number of law enforcement agencies.

No estimate has been made of how many businesses in England and Wales were victims of electronic crime in each of the last five years.

Entry Clearances: EU Enlargement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 82W, on entry clearances: EU enlargement, what her policy is on Case C-16/05 of the European Court of Justice, 2007/C269/09, with particular reference to the consequences of the judgment for policy formulation. [214152]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State for the Home Department accepts that this judgment allows Turkish nationals to apply to establish in business under the requirements in force in 1973, including applying for entry clearance for this purpose. Entry clearance applications will be accepted under new guidelines by overseas missions starting in July 2008. This will be accompanied by the publication of revised policy.

Entry Clearances: Females

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of women who, after initially coming to the United Kingdom on a spousal visa, returned to their country of origin after separating from their spouses following domestic violence in the latest period for which figures are available. [212757]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* The requested information is not available.

Entry Clearances: Russia

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 472W, on entry clearances, how many visits have been made to the UK by Russian citizens in the last 12 months; and how many visas had been issued at each of the visa application centres in Russia. [212824]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The latest information on visits to the United Kingdom by Russian nationals is published in Table 2.3 in the Home Office Command Paper 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-publications.html

Data for 2007 are due to be published in August.

The total number of visas issued at our posts in Russia in the last 12 months (1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008) is as follows:

	Number
Moscow	112,871
St. Petersburg	22,548
Yekaterinburg	7,708

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what fee is charged at visa application centres in the Russian Federation to Russian citizens seeking to enter the UK for the purposes of marriage; and if she will review the charges made for marriage visas where the parties are both *(a)* of pensionable age and *(b)* previously widowed. [213254]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The fee charged for an application to enter the UK for the purpose of marriage is £515. The UKBA do not intend to review the charges made for marriage visas where both parties are of pensionable age and where they have been previously widowed.

Entry Clearances: Students

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken of students visiting the UK from outside the EU on a six month visitor visa for immigration statistics purposes; and if she will make a statement. [213996]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by category are published in table 2.2 in the Command Paper, "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom".

The latest published statistics are for 2006 and may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Statistics for 2007 are due to be published in August 2008.

Non EEA nationals visiting the UK as students on six month visitor conditions are categorised as follows:

> Prior to 1 September 2007, short term students were categorised according to the category under which they sought leave to enter. Those intending not to work were granted leave to enter under the visitor category. Those intending to work part-time were granted leave to enter under the student category. Prior to September 2007, those entering under the visitor category were also permitted to study.
>
> A new student visitor category was introduced from 1 September 2007. This provided for short term students who wished to study in the UK but who did not wish to take part-time employment or seek an extension to their student visitor leave. It is intended to include these within the student category in the 2007 published statistics.

Espionage

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to paragraph 4.66 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, (1) which countries have been conducting covert non-military activity by foreign intelligence organisations against the UK; and what assessment she has made of trends in levels of this activity; [212403]

(2) how many attempts there have been by foreign intelligence groups to steal sensitive technology relevant to civilian and military projects in the last five years. [212404]

Mr. McNulty: As set out in the National Security Strategy, the intelligence and security agencies, with others, will continue to protect the UK against covert activity by foreign intelligence organisations.

However, it has been the consistent policy of successive governments not to comment on the detail of national security issues such as spying against the UK.

Hacking

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many technical attacks through the internet have been detected on Government computer systems in the last five years. [212405]

Mr. McNulty: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm publicly whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. To do so would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Heathrow Airport: security, on what date the review of each of the events *(a)* began and *(b)* reported its findings. [213185]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The reviews referred to in my previous reply were part of the normal security review process and as such had no formal commencement or completion date. Meetings to discuss the initial incidents (which occurred on 27 and 31 March) were held on 27 March and 1 April respectively and these meetings led to a significant change in the operation of the arrivals processes in this area.

Similar review meetings were held in the days immediately following each of the other three incidents to examine what had caused the incident and to consider any further precautionary measures that needed to be put in place to prevent further occurrences.

A follow up meeting was held on 11 June between UK Border Agency, BAA and British Airways to discuss these issues. As part of this meeting it was reiterated that British Airways staff have a legal requirement to ensure that all passengers are correctly dealt with.

The director of the UK Border Agency at Heathrow has also commissioned a review by a senior manager, independent of terminal 5. This will examine how airport terminals across the UK handling domestic and international flights deal with the additional risks that this might present. The review is expected to result in a formal report, which will highlight best practice and allow UK Border Agency managers to work more closely with airport authorities and airlines to ensure that such occurrences are minimised. This review is ongoing.

Immigration

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will grant indefinite leave to remain to Peter James Hardwick of Kingsbridge whose application was lodged on 12 November 2006, Home Office reference: H1174929. [212827]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the right hon. Member on 19 June 2008.

Immigration Controls: Eurostar

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her officials have been stationed on the European terminals in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels since the arrangement commenced; how many of them have taken advantage of the facility available to them of learning a European language; how many have learned a language for an examination; at what level; and if she will make a statement. [212969]

Mr. Byrne: Full juxtaposed immigration controls were established at the Eurostar terminal at Paris in February 2004 and at the terminal in Brussels in October 2004. Since then, a total of 123 staff have been posted to these locations. Staff are posted from the UK for periods of between two and three years with their numbers being supplemented by staff who are posted on a short term basis.

It is not essential to the operation of the immigration control for staff to speak a second language; however staff are encouraged to learn to speak either French or Dutch and may receive departmental assistance towards this. Although an exact figure is not available, some 50 staff have already taken advantage of this assistance. There is no requirement at present for staff to take a formal examination although this is currently under review. About 40 staff already held a qualification in a second language, at 'A level' standard or above, at the time of their posting.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was incremental to the salaries they would otherwise be drawing in the UK of stationing officials of her Department in the Eurostar terminals in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels in the latest period for which figures are available. [212970]

Mr. Byrne: The Civil Service Management Code and the Overseas Compendium dictate that staff posted from the UK to work abroad are placed on the same salary scales as their equivalents working in central London, receive any applicable London allowances, as well as a 'Cost of Living Allowance' (COLA) to provide for the increased cost of living at post. These allowances are regularly reviewed and fluctuate in line with exchange rates and cost of living movements.

Accommodation, utility bills (excluding private telephone calls), local taxes and transfer costs are also paid from public funds. A single immigration officer posted to Paris therefore costs about £31,000 per annum more than an immigration officer working in central London.

Prior to the introduction of juxtaposed controls on Eurostar routes there were an average of 700 inadequately documented arrivals (IDA's) and asylum applications seen per month at Waterloo. Since the introduction of the juxtaposed controls, such arrivals at UK Eurostar stations have now all but been eliminated. Many IDA's subsequently go on to claim asylum and so the cost savings resulting from having a juxtaposed control arrangement in place are substantial.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her officials have been stationed in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels to examine passports of passengers taking the Eurostar to London since the arrangement commenced. [212971]

Mr. Byrne: Since full juxtaposed immigration controls were established at the Eurostar terminal at Paris in February 2004 and at Brussels in October 2004 a total of 123 staff have been posted to these locations. They are posted from the UK for periods of between two and three years, with their numbers being supplemented by staff posted on a short term basis.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials from her Department are stationed at the Eurostar terminals in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels. [212972]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently 57 staff posted for a minimum period of two years to Paris and 30 to Brussels, with their numbers being supplemented by staff posted on a short-term basis. These staff are responsible for operating a control on passengers boarding UK bound Eurostar services at Lille, as well as providing on-board controls on the daily service to London from Marne-la Valleé (EuroDisney), and seasonal services from Avignon and Bourg St. Maurice.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passengers intending to travel on the Eurostar have been denied entry to the United Kingdom by officials based at the terminals in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels since they have been based there. [212973]

Mr. Byrne: Full juxtaposed immigration controls were established at the Eurostar terminal at Paris in February 2004 and at Brussels in October 2004. Between then and 31 March 2008 a total of 11,922 passengers have been refused entry to the United Kingdom at these stations.

Immigration Controls: Higher Education

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has undertaken consultations with universities on the implementation of the points-based immigration system; and if she will make a statement. [212828]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* There has been considerable consultation with universities on the implementation of the points based system (PBS) and this is ongoing.

The Joint Education Taskforce (JET) is a permanent forum for consultation with the education sector and this meets, as a minimum, once a quarter. Universities are well represented on JET and there has been detailed discussion on PBS at every meeting over the past two years.

The detailed policy and the implementation strategy for Tier 4 of PBS are currently being developed in close consultation with Universities UK and their members, among others.

In addition, UKBA has held several events to update stakeholders on progress on PBS implementation, the most recent being on 10 June 2008. Representatives of Universities UK and several individual universities attended this event.

Immigration Officers: Powers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many front-line officers serving in the UK Border Agency had been granted both immigration and customs powers as at 31 May 2008. [213562]

Mr. Byrne: On 3 April 2008, my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, reported to the House on the creation of the UK Border Agency. At that time, it was announced that by the summer we expected over 1,000 front-line staff to have cross conferred customs and immigration powers.

As of 31 May 2008, cross conferrals have enabled in excess of 750 UK Border Agency front-line officers to exercise both immigration and customs powers at the UK border. By the end of June, this figure is expected to rise to over 1,000.

Immigration: Public Participation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times citizen's juries have been used to consider matters relating to Government immigration policy. [213563]

Mr. Byrne: To date, citizens' juries have not been used to consider matters relating to Government immigration policy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter of 4 March from the hon. Member for Sunderland South regarding Joseph Omenga (HO 01066013). [212652]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 12 June 2008 to conclude this matter.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the reply of 19 June (CTS ref B19094/8) from the Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the hon. Member for Walsall North to refer the hon. Member to an official in her Department; what the reasons were for dealing with any further information in the case in the letter; and how many replies to hon. Members were signed by the Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency in each week of the latest period for which figures are available. [213960]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: Your letter to Lin Homer (UK Border Agency chief executive) dated 28 May related to a work permit application. The reply sent on 19 June from Jonathan Sedgwick (UK Border Agency deputy chief executive) set out that the case had been reconsidered and gave the reasons for maintaining the original decision to refuse the application. The letter also gave the name and contact number of the official in the department who you or your constituent could contact for more information about the reconsideration. This is standard practice and is intended to be helpful to MPs and their staff, as well as their constituents who may have further questions about their case. This approach has been particularly welcomed by those Members with large immigration caseloads. Your letter was written to the chief executive. In accordance with our protocols a letter addressed to the chief executive can be responded to by other officials, on her behalf. This includes the deputy chief executive.

Letters written to Home Office Ministers about immigration matters can also be answered by the chief executive, as set out in Cabinet Office guidance. Given the large volume of letters relating to immigration received from MPs, the Cabinet Office also allows the deputy chief executive to share the signing of these ministerial letters. This is the same approach which is taken by the Identity and Passport Service.

In May 2008, Lin Homer and Jonathan Sedgwick between them signed approximately 700 letters to MPs. Figures are not kept for the number of letters signed by the deputy chief executive as opposed to the chief executive but in any given week, they usually sign equal numbers of letters.

You have asked for further information about this case, which is currently being investigated and you will receive a reply shortly.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter from the hon. Member for Manchester, Central of 17 March (Ref: B20220/8); and what the reason is for the time taken to respond. [214499]

Mr. Byrne: My officials wrote to my hon. Friend on 26 June 2008.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many copies of the *Morning Star* her Department and each of its agencies procures via subscription each week; and at what cost. [211001]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not subscribe to the *Morning Star*.

National Police Improvement Grants

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have received national police improvement grants. [213032]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office provides funding to police authorities as a whole, but no specific grant provision is made available for policing improvements.

The National Policing Improvement Agency, through its improvement programme is, in 2008-2009, providing a major capital and resource investment totalling £185.6 million to police forces to support five key areas: mobile police information; improvements to the national communications (for example police radio communications of the London Underground system); the Schengen Information System; the Forensic Science and IMPACT programmes.

Personal information: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of information are to be shared between member states following Council Recommendation 2007/562/EC and subsequent related decisions, with particular regard to personal data; and for what reason this agreement was reached at EU rather than Interpol level. [214161]

Mr. McNulty: Council Recommendation 2007/562/EC recommends that member states share the following information on terrorist kidnaps with other member states via a secure EU network: Country and region in which the kidnapping took place; number and nationality of the hostage(s); time and date of the kidnapping; time and date of the end of the incident; perpetrators/responsible terrorist group; modus operandi of the kidnapping; motivation for the kidnapping; whether a mediator was involved; and details of a contact point in the member state concerned.

Member states are also recommended to submit the following information, if appropriate:

> hostages' reasons for being in the country, their language skills and gender; ideology, nationality, language skills of the perpetrators; means used by the perpetrators to address the public; and further details on the perpetrators' modus operandi.

Personal data should be submitted in accordance with member states' national laws.

This initiative was originally proposed by the G8, but was not taken forward by them in the absence of a secure G8 communications network and to avoid duplication of effort. The idea was taken forward by the EU, utilising an existing EU secure computer network, given the benefit of information sharing between member states for the handling of future terrorist kidnapping incidents. We are not aware of any proposal for Interpol to have a similar database on terrorist kidnapping.

There have been no subsequent related decisions or further work on this subject suggested by the EU.

Police Raids: Damage

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances police are required to cover the costs of damage they make to properties when forcing entry as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [212968]

Mr. McNulty: The police can apply under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 for a warrant to enter and search premises for evidence of an offence. The PACE code of practice for the searching of premises by police officers and the seizure of property found by police officers on persons or premises (Code B) requires that the officer conducting a search shall, unless it is impracticable to do so, provide the occupier with a copy of a Notice of Powers and Rights which clearly sets out the powers used and the rights of the individual, including that compensation may be payable in appropriate cases for damages caused entering and searching premises, and giving the address to send a compensation application. Whether compensation is appropriate depends on the circumstances in each case.

Police: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what contingency plans her Department has in place for the provision of fuel for police vehicles during periods of fuel shortages; [211517]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the supply of fuel to police vehicles during the strike by fuel supply drivers. [212161]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not issue guidance, and has received no representations from police forces, relating to the provision of fuel to police forces. It is a matter for individual police forces to make their own contingency arrangements for potential fuel shortages.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed per head of the population in each police force area in each year since 1997-98. [213626]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

The available data are also given in the following table.

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

	31 March each year										
Police force	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	226	226	224
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	182	184	189	198	210	213	213	207
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	196	196	187
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	308	308	315
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	256	256	255
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	212	212	209

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

Police force	31 March each year										
	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	219	219	216
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	216	216	217
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	288	288	285
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	203	203	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	209	209	209	219	229	228	228	229
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	318	318	314
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	[illegible]	208	211	211	211	215
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	208	208	210
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	251	251	251
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	253	253	252
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	241	241	237
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	183	183	183
London, City of[5]	—	—									
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	[illegible]	315	315	325
Metropolitan Police[5]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	417	417	426
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	193	193	91
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	207	207	200
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	291	291	283
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	216	216	217
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	243	243	235
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	259	259	256
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	219	219	219
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	191	191	196
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	207	207	205
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	202	202	199
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	198	198	199
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	202	202	205
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	318	318	318
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	270	270	270
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	196	196	192
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	264	264	268
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	242	242	238
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	271	271	273

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhymney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.

[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Police: Rhyl

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are based in *(a)* Rhyl and *(b)* Colwyn Bay, broken down by rank. [214142]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally in police personnel statistics. Rank data are available at police force level only.

Prostitution: Developing Countries

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent and discourage sex tourism abroad by UK nationals; and what funding has been allocated to such work in 2008-09. [213820]

Mr. Coaker: Section 72 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 amends the extraterritorial provisions of Sexual Offences Act 2003 to remove the dual criminality requirement. This will allow the prosecution of UK nationals for offences committed against children overseas even if the act committed is not illegal in the country where it was committed.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) was established in 2006 and tackling travelling UK sex offenders is part of its remit. It continues to work with UK police and police overseas to exchange information on intelligence on specific offenders and share knowledge on methods of discouraging offenders from travelling abroad to exploit children and apprehending those who do. We have provided CEOP with a budget of £5.77 million this year.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking in international fora to encourage more countries to adopt extraterritorial laws to tackle child sex tourism. [213821]

Mr. Coaker: The UK actively participated in The Lyon/Roma group (G8 expert group for organised crime) which produced a G8 analysis of extraterritorial jurisdiction of sexual exploitation crimes.

The UK participated in the development of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Article 25 obliges state parties to take extraterritorial jurisdiction over certain offences established in accordance with this convention. The UK indicated its support for this Convention by signing it on 5 May and is taking steps to enable it to be ratified.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the possible effects of the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland on border and frontier protection; and if she will make a statement. [212945]

Mr. Byrne: The proposed closure of HMRC offices in Scotland is not expected to have any impact on border and frontier protection. This is because the proposals do not include any frontier office closures therefore Border Force staff and activity should not be affected.

The former HM Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue had policies of actively managing their estates to ensure value for money. The changes, as a whole, are designed to significantly improve customer service and value for money for taxpayers.

Suicide: Drugs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of *(a)* suicides and *(b)* killings in (i) Lancashire, (ii) the North West and (iii) England the consumption of (A) alcohol and (B) illegal drugs was a contributory factor in each of the last 10 years. [213568]

Mr. Coaker: Neither the Home Office nor Ministry of Justice collect data on suicides in the general population.

Information available centrally on killings relates to homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales for each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06 where the principal suspect was known to be intoxicated at the time of the offence, and is shown in the following table. However, as this is based on information notified to the Home Office, rather than the actual case files held by the police or the court records, it may understate the true position.

Table 1: Offence currently recorded[1] as homicide by intoxication level of principal suspect[2]: Lancashire police, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3,4]

Percentage

	Principal suspect drink drug level at time of homicide[2]		
Year recorded[3]	*Been drinking alcohol*	*Taken an illicit drug*	*Both drinking alcohol and taking an illicit drug*
1997-98	13.0	0	4.3
1998-99	13.6	0	0
1999-2000	6.3	0	0
2000-01	3.4	0	6.9
2001-02	11.8	0	5.9
2002-03	11.5	0	0
2003-04	18.5	0	0
2004-05	17.2	0	0
2005-06	8.3	0	8.3
2006-07	30.4	0	0

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] From the information supplied to the Home Office, the principal suspect is known to have been intoxicated at the time of the offence. These may include cases where drink/drugs was not the primary factor. The figures are affected by recording changes, most notably in 2001-02 when some forces made use of a new notification system.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[4] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Table 2: Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by intoxication level of principal suspect[2]: North West region[3], 1997-98 to 2006-07[4,5]

Percentage

	Principal suspect drink drug level at time of homicide[2]		
Year recorded[4]	*Been drinking alcohol*	*Taken an illicit drug*	*Both drinking alcohol and taking an illicit drug*
1997-98	5.8	1.0	1.0
1998-99	6.7	0	0.8
1999-2000	6.5	0	0
2000-01	3.5	0.9	1.8
2001-02	9.8	0.8	1.5
2002-03	6.8	0.3	1.0
2003-04	13.8	0.7	2.0
2004-05	11.8	2.1	2.1
2005-06	6.7	1.0	1.9
2006-07	15.3	0.9	1.8

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] From the information supplied to the Home Office, the principal suspect is known to have been intoxicated at the time of the offence. These may include cases where drink/drugs was not the primary factor. The figures are affected by recording changes, most notably in 2001-02 when some forces made use of a new notification system.

[3] Includes the police forces: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[5] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Table 3: Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by intoxication level of principal suspect[2]: England[3], 1997-98 to 2006-07[4,5]

Percentage

	Principal suspect drink drug level at time of homicide[2]		
Year recorded[4]	*Been drinking alcohol*	*Taken an illicit drug*	*Both drinking alcohol and taking an illicit drug*
1997-98	8.9	0.5	1.0
1998-99	7.0	0.6	1.1
1999-2000	4.7	0.8	0.9
2000-01	5.6	0.8	0.8
2001-02	12.4	1.9	1.8
2002-03	12.4	2.1	2.2
2003-04	16.0	2.1	3.2

Table 3: Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by intoxication level of principal suspect[2]: England[3], 1997-98 to 2006-07[4,5]

Percentage

	Principal suspect drink/drug level at time of homicide[2]		
Year recorded[4]	Been drinking alcohol	Taken an illicit drug	Both drinking alcohol and taking an illicit drug
2004-05	13.2	2.0	4.4
2005-06	10.6	1.2	2.3
2006-07	13.7	1.6	2.9

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] From the information supplied to the Home Office, the principal suspect is known to have been intoxicated at the time of the offence. These may include cases where drink/drugs was not the primary factor. The figures are affected by recording changes, most notably in 2001-02 when some forces made use of a new notification system.
[3] Excludes offences recorded by British Transport Police.
[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[5] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Surveillance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which public bodies are entitled to request the right to intercept individuals' emails and correspondence; and if she will make a statement. [213902]

Mr. McNulty: The public authorities concerned are: the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, GCHQ, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, the Metropolitan Police Service, the Police Service for Northern Ireland, Scottish Police forces, HM Revenue and Customs and the Defence Intelligence Staff.

The interception of communications such as telephone calls, e-mails and letters is governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 which requires that authorisation is given only when it is necessary and proportionate with regard to human rights.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are made by senior officials to ensure accuracy of replies to hon. Members from the UK Border Agency before they are sent, with particular reference to the reply of 19 June 2008 to the hon. Member for Walsall North (ref. B1178885). [214416]

Mr. Byrne: Gill Mortlock, the Regional Director for the UK Border Agency North West Region wrote to my hon. Friend on 26 June 2008 to clarify this issue.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213774]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office actively seeks to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. Data on quantity are no longer recorded centrally. We have data on two years within the last five: these are set out as follows:

£

	Value of timber	Value of timber products
2003-04[1]	1,275,000	2,131,137
2004-05[1]	291,000	1,209,000

[1] Includes Prison Service.

Work Permits

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown by level of earnings of holders of work permits for the three most recent years for which figures are available. [212856]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Fires

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 357W, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, and *(b)* 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on Yarl's Wood and with reference to the answers of (i) 19 March 2002, *Official Report*, column 281W, on Home Office and (ii) 20 March 2003, *Official Report*, columns 945-47W, on Home Office, how many insurance claims there are outstanding in relation to the fire at Yarl's Wood in February 2002; who is responsible for securing conclusion in each case; and if she will make a statement. [213682]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has one insurance claim outstanding relating to the damage caused by the fire at Yarl's Wood removal centre on 14 February 2002. Conclusion of this matter is between the Home Office and the insurers.

It is understood that the insurers have made a claim against Bedfordshire police under the Riot Damages Act 1886. Conclusion of this matter is between the insurers and Bedfordshire police authority.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 July 2008

7

PRIME MINISTER

Food Supply

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to paragraph 3.50 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, what food the Government stores as a reserve; and how much food has been stored in the last five years. [212402]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The UK does not hold state-owned emergency food stocks. The Government manages its response to a disruption in supplies of food through a DEFRA database identifying where food stocks are held using the DEFRA Agriculture Census and a biennial food survey carried out by IGD. The food industry provides this commercially sensitive information on the basis that it is treated as confidential.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on newspapers and periodicals in each of the last three years. [200499]

Mr. Byrne: Because of the amount of data involved and their disparate nature an answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Metropolitan Police: Forensic Science

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Metropolitan Police spent on forensic science services in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [215443]

Meg Hillier: This information is not held centrally as it is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Passports: Interviews

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport interview offices for first-time passport customers are fully operational; on which date each office became operational; and how many staff are employed at each office. [202248]

Jacqui Smith: As of 28 April 2008 there are 66 fully operational passport interview offices. The schedule in the table gives the latest dates they became fully operational and the full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed at each office are as follows:

Opening date	*Office*	*FTEs in post as at end of March 2008*
2007		
9 July	Newport	11.00
16 July	Peterborough	4.50
20 August	Belfast	7.00
	Glasgow	16.91
27 August	Newcastle	13.67
10 September	Manchester	17.50
	Birmingham	22.51
24 September	London	49.75
8 October	Dover	3.85
	Leeds	14.50
	Plymouth	5.27
	Portsmouth	8.50
15 October	Liverpool	13.00
	Middlesbrough	7.00
	Stoke on Trent	4.50
22 October	Lincoln	6.26
	Swansea	7.00
29 October	Cheltenham	4.50
	Sheffield	13.00
	Yeovil	2.69
31 October	Newport (IOW)	2.12
5 November	Northampton	6.00
12 November	Carlisle	2.29
	Crawley	6.77
	Coleraine	3.46
19 November	Armagh	2.29
	Bournemouth	5.00
	Shrewsbury	3.46
	Wrexham	6.00
	Ipswich	5.00
26 November	Scarborough	2.29
	Stirling	3.46
	York	3.08
	Aberystwyth	1.12
3 December	Derby	10.00
	Edinburgh	7.00
10 December	Chelmsford	7.50
	Luton	9.00

Opening date	*Office*	*FTEs in post as at end of March 2008*
	Aberdeen	3.08
	Maidstone	5.56
	Omagh	1.78
17 December	Ripon	2.12
	South Molton	2.04
	Exeter	4.61
	Reading	10.50
	Blackburn	6.50
	Inverness	3.08
	Kingston on Hull	6.50
	Redruth	2.04
	Warwick	4.23
	Bristol	6.50
	St. Austell	2.78
	Swindon	4.31
24 December	Kendal	5.69
	Bury St. Edmunds	2.29
	Dumfries	1.78
	Wick	1.12
	Sleaford	1.02
31 December	Andover	4.52
2008		
7 January	Leicester	6.50
14 January	Oxford	3.94
21 January	Berwick upon Tweed	2.56
	Dundee	3.50
28 January	Selkirk	2.84
	Kings Lynn	4.02
	Norwich	4.50

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 196822 on terrorist activity, tabled on 26 March. [206479]

Jacqui Smith: I replied to the hon. Member on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 844W.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213705]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213760]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

TREASURY

Armed Conflict: Afghanistan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government spent on the war in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [214478]

Yvette Cooper: The net additional costs of operations in Afghanistan each year since 2001 to 31 March 2007, is recorded in the Ministry of Defence's annual reports and accounts.

Car Allowances

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the authorised mileage rates for business travel under the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments Scheme. [211486]

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to implement a percentage increase in HM Revenue and Customs mileage allowance bands in line with increases in petrol price rises. [212282]

Angela Eagle: The Government are aware of the pressures that motorists—including those who use their cars for business travel—are under as a result of high fuel prices, caused by conditions in the international oil market. However, the cost of driving can depend on a number of factors, not just fuel prices and decisions on the rate of approved mileage payments are taken as part of the Budget cycle. The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government would maintain the tax-free mileage allowance (AMAPs) rates and thresholds at current levels.

Certified Public Accountants Association

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Certified Public Accountants Association has responsibility for regulating its members under the money laundering regulations; and if he will make a statement; [214497]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Certified Public Accountants Association on the regulation of its members under the money laundering regulations; and if he will make a statement. [214498]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The Certified Public Accountants Association (CPAA) is not a supervisory professional body for the purposes of the money laundering regulations 2007. 22 supervisory professional bodies are listed in schedule 3 of the regulations.

My officials have corresponded with the CPAA during 2007 and 2008, beginning in June and August 2007, explaining the policy approach taken on supervisory arrangements and the appointment of supervisors, as set out in public consultations on the implementation of the third money laundering directive in July 2006 and January 2007. The CPAA did not apply for supervisory status during either consultation period.

As a matter of good practice, the Treasury intends to review the supervisory arrangements in 2009, once the regulations have been in force for a reasonable period.

Although the CPAA is not a supervisor for the purposes of the money laundering regulations 2007, they may work with the relevant supervisors to assist their members' compliance with the regulations.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* employers offering and *(b)* employees taking up childcare vouchers; and if he will make a statement. [214320]

Jane Kennedy: There are no official data collected on the number of employers who offer and employees who take up child care vouchers. Employers are not required to report these data to HMRC.

Research carried out by the National Centre for Social Research for HMRC in 2006 estimated that 2.5 per cent. of organisations offered employer supported child care and that 36 per cent. of employees had access to this provision. This report was published in December 2006 and is available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm

HMRC considers that these figures are likely to have increased since this research was carried out.

Corporation Tax: Tax Collection

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost of collecting corporation tax in the latest period for which figures are available. [214612]

Jane Kennedy: The costs of collecting corporation tax are shown on page 31 of the HMRC Autumn Performance Report 2007. The report can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2007.pdf

Economic Situation

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* the Northern Ireland economy and *(b)* the economy of the rest of the UK in each of the last five years. [215006]

Yvette Cooper: The Government published in April 2008 the review of Northern Ireland competitiveness by Sir David Varney, which showed that the Northern Ireland economy is performing well, although there is scope for further reform to improve economic performance.

EU: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what UK participation there will be in the TARGET2 infrastructure of the Eurozone; and what estimate he has made of the cost of any UK changeover. [214166]

Kitty Ussher: Following consultation with the UK members of the TARGET system, the Bank of England took a strategic decision in October 2005 that the provision of euro inter-bank payment facilities in the TARGET2 system was a matter for euro-area central banks. The Bank of England accesses TARGET2, in respects of its own payments, indirectly through De Nederlandsche Bank.

Euro Preparations Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government Departments and agencies have reported updates to their Euro changeover plans to his Department's Euro Preparations Unit in the last 18 months. [198095]

Kitty Ussher: It is for each Government Department and agency to ensure they have made appropriate preparations for a possible future euro changeover. Departments and agencies are not required to report updates to their euro changeover plans to the Treasury.

Excise Duties: Tax Collection

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost of collecting excise duty in the latest period for which figures are available. [214611]

Angela Eagle: Section 4, table 1 of the HMRC Autumn Report sets out the costs to HMRC involved in the collection of each tax including excise. A copy of the latest report can be found online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2007.pdf

The 2007-08 report should be published in autumn of this year.

Food: Prices

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the effect on global food prices of food subsidies in *(a)* the EU and *(b)* developing countries. [213341]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 June 2008]*: The different elements of the current CAP—tariffs, export subsidies, and production subsidies—affect food prices in different ways. The result of all these elements combined is that the EU modestly lowers average global prices at a significant cost to EU consumers and taxpayers, while significantly disincentivising production elsewhere.

As highlighted in the June 2008 "Global Commodities: A Long Term Vision for Stable, Secure and Sustainable Global Market" Treasury publication, a number of countries outside of the EU have responded to high food prices by introducing policies aimed at reducing prices domestically. These have ranged from generally positive measures such as reducing import tariffs, to costly consumer subsidies and harmful export restrictions.

This is why we joined other G8 Finance Ministers in calling inter alia for a removal of supply-side constraints and export restrictions and a replacement of general food subsidies in developing countries with well-targeted help for the poorest.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which groups will not be fully compensated by his proposals to compensate taxpayers who were affected by the abolition of the 10 pence tax band. [214491]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 108W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field).

Iraq Conflict

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government has spent on the war in Iraq in each financial year since hostilities began. [214479]

Yvette Cooper: The net additional costs of operations in Iraq each year since hostilities began to 31 March 2007, is recorded in the Ministry of Defence's annual reports and accounts.

National Income: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of gross domestic product was recorded in the NUTS area most closely corresponding to *(a)* Peterborough city council area and *(b)* Peterborough constituency in each of the last 10 years. [215272]

Yvette Cooper: Peterborough is the NUTS 3 level region which most closely corresponds to the Peterborough city council and Peterborough constituency areas. Office for National Statistics (ONS) do not publish regional GDP but do publish estimates of regional gross value added (GVA) for the NUTS 3 areas, for the period 1995 to 2005.

The latest data for NUTS 3 area levels are for 2005. Following are the GVA levels at NUTS 3 for Peterborough:

NUTS 3 GVA at current basic prices for Peterborough

	£ million
1995	1,870
1996	1,995
1997	2,138
1998	2,282
1999	2,366
2000	2,425
2001	2,549
2002	2,728
2003	2,971
2004	3,211
2005	3,358

Source:

ONS Gross Value Added (GVA) is Gross Domestic Product (GDP) less taxes (plus subsidies) on products.

Revenue and Customs: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of service is of staff in the Debt Management and Banking department at the HM Revenue and Customs office in Crewe. [214474]

Jane Kennedy: The average length of service of HM Revenue and Customs staff in Debt Management and Banking office at Crewe is currently 23.7 years.

Welfare Tax Credits: EU Nationals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for *(a)* working tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits were made by citizens of other EU member states resident in Peterborough constituency in the last financial year; and if he will make a statement. [214566]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1236W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Data Protection

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the staff who will be given access to documentation submitted by hon. Members to the Parliamentary authorities to undertake work to redact personal information from information to be published in autumn 2008 will be permanent or temporary staff; what security checks will have been carried out on those staff; and if he will make a statement. [215446]

Nick Harvey: Quality assurance and editing will be undertaken by security-cleared permanent staff as will any further revisions after hon. Members have had an opportunity to check their information. However, the House does not itself have the capacity to carry out all the work required. It is therefore planned that the scanning of some 1.3 million documents and first stage redaction to remove details such as addresses, telephone numbers, banking details and account numbers will be undertaken under secure conditions by a contractor familiar with providing services to Government and Parliament whose staff have been security cleared. Arrangements for providing additional staff required by the contractor for this project will be agreed between the contractor and the House authorities. The Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator and the Serjeant at Arms have been consulted, and their approval of the arrangements will be sought before the work goes ahead. Staff of the House will be involved in monitoring the whole process.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications the Electoral Commission has submitted in the last 24 months. [215543]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not made any planning applications or licensing applications in the last 24 months.

Labour Party: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission on what date the Labour Party deposited its accounts for 2007 with the Electoral Commission. [215306]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Labour party submitted its 2007 statement of accounts on 27 June 2008.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many donations to regulated donees were notified to the Commission late in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* January 2008. [211527]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has retained most original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2001 onwards and all original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2007 onwards. On the basis of available returns, the information sought by the hon. Member is as shown in the following table.

	Late
2001	54
2002	68
2003	52
2004	85
2005	37
2006	86
2007	112
January 2008	33
Total	527

Details of all donations reported to the Commission including the name of the donor, the amount and the date that the donation was accepted, but not including the date notified to the Commission, can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/regdonregulateddonee.cfm

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Speaker's Committee has made of the adequacy of information published by the Electoral Commission on numbers of donations reported late by regulated donees; and if he will make a statement. [215349]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Speaker's Committee has a number of specific, statutory functions in relation to the Electoral Commission. It has made no assessment of the kind referred to by the hon. Member.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials work in his Department. [215789]

David Cairns: Staffing numbers in the Scotland Office are published in the Office's Annual Report, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list for hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215277]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Death

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths occurred in UK airports in each year since 1997; and how many of these were attended by *(a)* the ambulance service and *(b)* port medical inspectors or other medical practitioners at airports in a professional capacity before death occurred. [214559]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Aviation: Summertime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission research into the effects on morning levels of freight transport and aviation noise levels of a change to British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [214787]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no current plans to commission research on the effect of British Summer Time or Double British Summer Time.

Dartford Tunnel: Queen Elizabeth II Bridge

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the net revenue from crossing tolls at the Dartford River Crossing was in each of the last five years. [214440]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 551-52W, to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which transport projects have been funded or committed to be funded by the net revenues received from the tolls at the Dartford River Crossing. [214441]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The Transport Act 2000 requires that all net revenues from the charging scheme at Dartford-Thurrock river crossing are spent on transport.

Gross revenues from the charging regime at the crossing come to the Department to add to what is available to spend on transport. The revenues are not kept in a separate pot for specific projects.

Since 2003, when the charging scheme was introduced, the Department has made available £1 million per year to Kent county council, and between £0.75 million and £1 million per year to Thurrock council, to help deliver local transport projects. This is in recognition of the impact of the crossing on local residents. This arrangement will cease with the introduction of the local discount scheme later this year.

London to Cardiff Railway Line

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is her policy to support the development of a high-speed rail link from London to Cardiff. [215445]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network. As part of this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. The review will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland Main Lines. It is too early to say what the results of this study will be or where any potential new lines might go. The study is expected to be complete in July 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Fees and Charges

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make it her policy to link increases in changes in motoring-related fees to rate of inflation measures by the Consumer Prices Index; and if she will make a statement; [215299]

(2) what the annual percentage increase in the level of fees set by Statutory Instruments Nos *(a)* 1581, *(b)* 1577 and *(c)* 1578 of 2008 are; and what account she took of the rate of inflation in setting these levels. [215301]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In setting motoring-related fees consideration is made of the underlying inflationary position, but Government Trading Funds, such as the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA), have a statutory obligation to recover the full costs incurred in line with the Trading Funds Act 1973. Therefore to tie such fees to the Consumer Price Index would prove too restrictive an approach.

The broad level of increase in the fees of the Statutory Instruments (SI) in question is 5 per cent. Some individual fees have increased by greater than this percentage as a result of rounding to the nearest pound. Inflation was one of a number of factors taken into account when setting the level of the fee. Other factors included supporting better targeting of VOSA's enforcement activities and continuing refurbishment of equipment and facilities. Further details are available in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Statutory Instruments laid before Parliament.

Noise: Roads

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate her Department has made of the changes in traffic noise levels associated with A roads in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England over the last 10 years; [213963]

(2) what funding is made available to local authorities to reduce the effect of traffic noise from A roads which are near to residential areas; [213964]

(3) what account she has taken of the effect on levels of road traffic noise from A roads which results from house building targets; and what assessment has been made of the effect of such levels on existing communities. [213965]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: The management of local roads, including decisions on which road treatment to use, are a matter for each local highway authority. This Department provides funding to English local authorities (outside London) through the Local Transport Plan settlement, which they can use on road schemes such as those to reduce the effect of traffic noise. They can also use the Revenue Support Grant provided by the Department for Communities and local government. Neither funding is ring fenced and authorities have discretion how to spend their allocations based upon their local priorities. Funding for highways in London is a matter for the Mayor.

The Highways Agency has not undertaken work to estimate changes in traffic noise levels on the strategic road network over the last 10 years. However, the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended) include provisions to improve the information available to the public about noise and its effect. The regulations require the preparation of strategic noise maps for urban areas, major roads, major railways and major airports. Following the completion of mapping an action plan is to be drawn up to manage noise and reduce it where possible. Mapping and action plans are to be prepared on a five year cycle. All mapping for this current cycle has been completed. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs plan to prepare guidance and consult on drafting action plans later this year.

The noise impact of proposed housing developments, including any impact on road traffic noise, is a matter to be determined at the local level. In the assessment of a planning application, noise nuisance may be a material consideration and taken into account when weighing up the merits of a case.

Parking: Fines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many appeals were made against the issuing of parking fines to the Independent Parking Adjudicator in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by area, and of those how many *(a)* were upheld, *(b)* were quashed, *(c)* were referred back to the issuing authority for further consideration and *(d)* are outstanding; [214597]

(2) how many penalty charge notices in respect of alleged parking infringements were issued by local authorities in each year since 1993. [214730]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: This information is not held centrally by the Government, but the figures for the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued by local authorities, appeals made against the issuing of PCNs and appeals upheld are set out in the annual reports of the Parking Adjudicators, Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) (for London) and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) (for outside London).

The reports of the PATAS are available at:

www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk/annualreports.htm

The reports of the TPT (formerly NPAS) are available at:

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk/site/scripts/google_results.php?g=Annual+Report&x=11&y=9

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cases where drivers involved in reported road traffic accidents failed to stop there were in each of the last five years. [214571]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents that failed to stop (i.e. hit and run) in 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table:

	Number
2003	27,161
2004	24,313
2005	22,918
2006	21,562
2007	19,973

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the combined annual budget is for road and related infrastructure improvements for the South West; and on what criteria such funding is allocated. [215444]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport's budget for 2008-09 includes £212 million expected to be spent on support for road and related infrastructure improvements in the south-west. This consists of £169.158 million block grants to south-west local authorities for highway maintenance and integrated transport, £39.208 million for major schemes, each generally costing above £5 million, and approximately £4 million grant paid in respect of recently detrunked roads. The figures exclude minor improvements on strategic roads and investment funded by PFI credits.

Block grants are calculated on the basis of formulae reflecting need: details of the formulae used and their rationale can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpsettle07/

Grants to authorities are not ring fenced, and actual spend on road improvement is the responsibility of individual authorities.

Estimated spend on major projects reflects advice from the region on priorities to be funded within their Regional Funding Allocation. Regional allocations are based on a formula reflecting their population.

Traffic Offences: Cameras

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she has issued to local authorities on making traffic camera video footage available on the internet; and if she will make a statement. [215341]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has not issued guidance to local authorities on making traffic camera video footage available on the internet.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the *(a)* Afghan National Army and *(b)* Afghan National Police Force is. [214387]

Des Browne: The latest available figures indicate that the current assigned strengths of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police are around 58,000 and 80,000 respectively.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual pay is for *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian ground vehicle crew members undertaking fuel resupply duties in Helmand province, Afghanistan. [213658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information required to calculate the average annual salary of military personnel currently undertaking fuel resupply duties in Helmand Province is not held centrally, and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, an indicative annual remuneration package, including pension benefits, for a member of the armed forces undertaking fuel resupply in Afghanistan would be a minimum of approximately £25,000. Civilian contractors undertaking fuel resupply in Afghanistan are employed under NATO contracts, and the Ministry of Defence does not therefore have access to detailed remuneration arrangements for individual drivers.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel from each country were serving in the International Security Assistance Force at the latest date for which information is available. [214140]

Des Browne: We do not comment on the numbers of deployed troops from other nations, which are matters for the countries concerned. However, they are listed with periodic updates on the International Security Assistance Force website, which can be found at:

http://www.nato.int/isaf/index.html

Armed Forces: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regiments have been based in the North West over the last three years; and how many are planned to be based there in the next three years. [214211]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following units have been based in the north west over the last 18 months:

Serial	*Unit*	*Location*
1	2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (2 YORKS)	Preston
2	2nd Battalion The Rifles (2 RIFLES)	Preston (up to August 2007)
3	4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (4 LANCS)	Preston
4	103 (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Royal Artillery (Volunteers) (103 Regt RA(V))	St. Helens
5	75 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) (75 Engr Regt (V))	Failsworth, Manchester
6	156 (North West) Transport Regiment The Royal Logistics Corps (156 Tpt Regt RLC (V))	Liverpool
7	33rd (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) (33 Sig Regt (V))	Liverpool
8	5 General Support Medical Regiment (5 GS Med Regt)	Preston
9	207 Field Hospital (Volunteer) (207 Fd Hosp(V))	Manchester
10	208 Field Hospital (Volunteer) (208 Fd Hosp(V))	Liverpool

Of these units 2 YORKS is due to move to Cyprus in December 2010.

The following units are due to move to the north west in the next three years:

Serial	*Unit*	*Location*
11	2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (2 LANCS)	Preston (from December 2010)
12	1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (The Royal Welch Fusiliers) (1R Welsh)	Chester (from August 2008)
13	253 General Support Medical Regiment (Volunteers) (253 GS Med Regt(V))	Elements will be based in Preston
14	254 General Support Medical Regiment (Volunteers) (254 GS Med Regt(V))	Elements will be based in Preston

Data on the units located in the north west before January 2007 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under which vehicle category the Husky mine detection/clearance vehicle falls; and under what conditions it is classed as a C vehicle. [213983]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army does not use the Husky mine detection/clearance vehicles, it does not therefore have a category and class for MOD use.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* ventilation and *(b)* cooling systems other than air conditioning are incorporated into the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle; [213986]

(2) whether the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle has *(a)* flaps and *(b)* windows which open to allow ventilation. [213987]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Panther vehicle is fitted with a standard air conditioning unit, hence there are no additional ventilation and cooling systems, flaps or windows.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether supplies of the 4-wheeled Cougar vehicle, when converted to a Ridgback, will be sent to theatre in batches immediately they are available. [213988]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are seeking to ensure that Ridgback is deployed as a complete operational capability, with doctrine defined, personnel trained, and the infrastructure in theatre complete. Current plans see the first batches arriving in theatre in spring 2009 although we continue to explore the possibility and requirement to bring this date forward.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to replace the Snatch Land Rover with another vehicle of similar size and capacity. [213989]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The introduction of vehicles such as Mastiff has already allowed us to replace Snatch in a number of roles. The introduction of Ridgback in 2009 will limit the use of Snatch further. While we continually review our requirements for protected vehicles and the roles in which they are used in theatre, there will continue to be a requirement for some vehicles of the size and capacity of Snatch. Any alternative vehicle would inevitably have similar capability in terms of protection and mobility.

Army: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to join the Army were made in each year since 1997; and how many applicants were successful in each year. [214348]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is provided in the following table.

	Officers		*Soldiers*	
	Applicants	*Enlisted*[1]	*Applicants*	*Enlisted*[1]
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	2,046	n/a	35,706	n/a
2000-01	1,925	n/a	30,631	n/a
2001-02	1,893	682	33,944	n/a
2002-03	1,984	702	36,104	n/a
2003-04	2,265	747	33,801	13,650
2004-05	1,795	725	29,413	10,578
2005-06	1,913	733	35,026	11,454
2006-07	1,845	729	38,442	12,660
2007-08[2]	1,473	616	23,492	11,678

[1] Those who have commenced phase 1 training as a soldier or the commissioning course at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as an officer.

[2] Eight months only

Note:

2007-08 soldier application figures are incomplete due to problems encountered with the introduction of a new IT system and the figures cover only eight months of data.

Bombs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 556W, on bombs, what military advice he has received from the armed forces on methods of disposal of cluster munitions since the Dublin Conference. [214458]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since the Dublin Conference, the Defence Ministers have received advice on stockpile figures for the two munition variants that are due to be disposed of in accordance with the adopted Dublin agreement. Methods of disposal are still under consideration and no specific advice has therefore been provided at this time.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214723]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 35W, which addressed the number of IT systems in the Department at that time.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212495]

Derek Twigg: As of June 2008, average pay per hour for the Ministry of Defence's principal civilian grades is broken down as follows:

	£
Permanent staff	
SCS Band 3 and above	64.63
SCS Band 2	43.73
SCS Band 1	30.81
Band B1	25.64
Band B2	21.09
Band C1	15.96
Band C2	12.81
Band D	10.29
Band E1	8.09
Band E2	6.76
Skill zone 4	10.21
Skill zone 3	8.58
Skill zone 2	7.58
Skill zone 1	6.92
Temporary staff	
SCS Band 3 and above	81.46
SCS Band 2	57.64
SCS Band 1	45.09
Band B1	29.70
Band B2	23.11
Band C1	16.35
Band C2	12.44
Band D	10.05
Band E1	7.19
Band E2	6.22
Skill zone 4	10.81
Skill zone 3	8.16
Skill zone 2	7.37
Skill zone 1	6.64

The figures exclude trading fund agencies and specialist grades (e.g. medical grades).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (Column 7227, 2006/07), what the expected level, in near cash terms is of *(a)* negative resource DEL income and *(b)* negative capital DEL income to be retained by his Department for the financial year 2008-09. [211898]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's expected forecast of near cash Operating and Non Operating Appropriations in Aid to be retained are set out in the 2008-09 MOD main estimates, which are:

Resource Operating Appropriations in Aid £1,243 million
Non Operating Appropriations in Aid £215 million

These figures will be updated in the winter and spring supplementary estimates to reflect the latest forecasts of Operating and Non Operating receipts from our top level budget holders (TLBs) and an additional £85 million of Non-Operating Appropriations-in-Aid have been identified since main estimates were prepared and will be included in the supplementary estimates.

These are estimates, and as such are subject to a number of variable factors, such as property prices and levels of assets disposals.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211856]

Derek Twigg: Information on the departmental cost of sick pay to staff is not centrally held.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213146]

Derek Twigg: Approximately 90 per cent. of MOD posts in the MOD require National Security Vetting which includes a full criminal record check. This requires candidates to declare all criminal convictions, including spent convictions. Pre-employment checks on the remainder require all candidates to declare unspent convictions, and random checks are made on these declarations.

Inquiries carried out by the Defence vetting agency indicate that between 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. of MOD applicants for National Security Vetting show an adverse trace on the Police National Computer. Such traces indicate a record against the individual and show any kind of conviction, ranging from juvenile offences to the most serious crimes. A trace may also indicate a police caution, that the person is wanted or missing, or that there is an impending prosecution. While a proportion of the traces will indicate a criminal record, it is not possible to give a definitive figure, nor state how many individuals were subsequently employed, without examining individual cases at disproportionate cost.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on *(a)* the creation of a standing EU budget for funding EU military operations and *(b)* other proposed reforms to the funding procedures of EU military-led operations. [214354]

Des Browne: The majority of costs of EU military operations are paid by the member states contributing troops and assets, on a 'costs lie where they fall' basis. But there is an EU arrangement for the funding of limited agreed common costs of EU military missions, the ATHENA mechanism. Under this mechanism, decisions on the common costs of individual operations require unanimity among EU member states, on a case-by-case basis. We believe that this mechanism is effective for the funding of EU military operations; therefore we would not support any reform of this mechanism.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the creation of a single EU Strategic Directorate in Brussels to carry out EU *(a)* military and *(b)* civil missions. [214356]

Des Browne: The Government have not seen any proposal for the creation of a single EU Strategic Directorate in Brussels to carry out EU military or civilian missions. However, we support the need for greater coherence between civilian and military components in crisis management, both within and between EU missions or in theatres where international organisations such as the EU, NATO and the UN operate alongside each other. We would therefore consider carefully any proposals for improving such coherence. We would not support proposals for an EU military Operation HQ.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the creation of an independent European Union standing strategic planning capability. [214357]

Des Browne: The EU military staff, created by the treaty of Nice in 2001, already provides the European Union with an independent standing strategic planning capability. Its military officers are all seconded from EU member states.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on EU defence policy, whether his Department plans to increase the number of its *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff attached to the (i) European Union military staff and (ii) European Defence Agency. [214367]

Des Browne: There are no plans to increase the number of military personnel or civilian staff attached to the European Union Military Staff.

All vacancies in the European Defence Agency, both civilian and military, are subject to open competition across all participating member states. The numbers of British military or MOD civilian staff are therefore likely to vary slightly over time as vacancies arise.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on developing a 60,000 strong EU rapid reaction force; [214337]

(2) what the Government's policy is on the creation of a 60,000 strong EU rapid reaction force. [214353]

Des Browne: There are no proposals for the creation of a 60,000 strong EU rapid reaction force, nor have I had any discussions about creating one.

The UK continues to support the Helsinki Headline Goal that all member states agreed to in 1999, which calls for the EU member states to be able to:

> "deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least one year military forces of up to 50,000 to 60,000 persons capable of the full range of Petersberg tasks."

This represents an overarching target for member states' collective level of capability, from which the EU's capability development framework takes its lead. It does not imply the creation of a standing EU force of any kind. Any commitment to an EU-led operation is voluntary and is a decision for national Governments to make on a case by case basis.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of veterans who have been awarded a veteran's badge; and if he will make a statement. [213004]

Derek Twigg: There are no accurate figures for the current veteran population however it is generally accepted as around 4.5 million. We have awarded an HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge to approximately 602,000 individuals. We have now extended eligibility to all veterans. This figure is growing as the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency are currently issuing between 2,000 and 2,500 badges each week. We take every opportunity to publicise the badge and encourage others to do so as well.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* other vehicles, *(c)* fixed wing aircraft, *(d)* rotary wing aircraft, *(e)* weapons systems and *(f)* unmanned aerial vehicles of each type which have been removed from service as a result of battle damage in Iraq and Afghanistan are now (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [214363]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many C17 aircraft are operated by the Royal Air Force; and how many of those are *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned by the Royal Air Force; [214094]

(2) how many C130 aircraft are operated by the Royal Air Force; and what proportion of these are owned by the Royal Air Force. [214096]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Air Force currently operates six C17 aircraft, two of which are owned by the Royal Air Force. The remaining four C17 aircraft are leased and will be purchased by the Royal Air Force this year.

The Royal Air Force currently operates and owns 42 Hercules C130 aircraft.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many heavy lift aircraft have been hired by the armed forces in the last three years, broken down by aircraft type. [214095]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a decision will be made on the company which will construct the *(a)* Hawk advanced jet trainer and *(b)* Typhoon tranche 3; and where each will be manufactured. [214088]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract for the build of the Hawk advanced jet trainer was awarded to BAE Systems in October 2006. The aircraft are manufactured at Brough on Humberside. Negotiations with partner nations and industry on Typhoon Tranche 3 are underway and expected to continue throughout this year. The UK's national partner companies in the Eurofighter and Eurojet consortia are BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce respectively. Typhoon aircraft are manufactured at sites across the four partner nations.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 849W, on berths, if he will list those berths with safety plans in place as specified in the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 which are available to nuclear powered submarines in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas. [213950]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The berths, including anchorages and buoys, with safety plans attached to them under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 are as follows:

	Location	*Number of berths*
UK	HMNB Devonport	17
	HMNB Clyde	10
	HMNB Portsmouth	5
	Southampton	2
	Portland	2
	Loch Goil	1
	Loch Ewe	2
	Broadford Bay	1
	Clyde estuary	1
	Barrow in Furness	2
Overseas	HMNB Gibraltar	2

Porton Down: Human Experiments

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 26WS, what progress has been made in the payment of compensation to servicemen affected by the Porton Down experiments. [214592]

Derek Twigg: Payment of those claims referred to in the written ministerial statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 26WS, was made in full to the claimants' legal representatives on 8 February 2008.

Type 45 Destroyers: Procurement

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice he received from the First Sea Lord relating to the cancellation of the seventh and eighth T45 destroyers procurement programme. [213808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As is the usual practice with decisions of this nature, the decision not to purchase further Type 45 destroyers beyond the six presently on order was taken by Ministers as part of the Department's most recent planning round and after careful consideration by the Defence Board, of which the First Sea Lord is a member.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Agriculture

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an agricultural policy is being established in Afghanistan under the command of *(a)* the International Security Assistance Force and *(b)* any other organisation; and if he will make a statement. [213990]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A national agriculture policy for Afghanistan is being developed by the Government of Afghanistan as part of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). The ANDS is the Afghan Government's five-year development plan aimed at reducing poverty, stimulating economic growth, and improving governance and donor coordination. The ANDS was launched formally at the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan in Paris on 12 June 2008.

The ANDS sets out the long-term strategic vision for agricultural and rural development. It aims to support the poor rural populations and develop the productivity and commercial viability of the agricultural sector. The lead Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, has developed Implementation and Investment Plans in response to the ANDS. The Department for International Development is providing support to this Ministry to develop and implement these plans.

Africa: Health Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had on UN plans to monitor and assess the implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action. [213251]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are currently in discussion with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) about the development of the monitoring plan to assess the progress of the Maputo Plan of Action. The issue of the monitoring plan was raised at the recent UNFPA Executive Board meeting in Geneva.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK bilateral aid programmes are under way in *(a)* Gambia, *(b)* Ghana, *(c)* Cameroon and *(d)* Equatorial Guinea; and what the (i) duration and (ii) cost is of each. [214581]

Gillian Merron: The following tables show all the UK bilateral aid programmes under way in *(a)* the Gambia, *(b)* Ghana, and *(c)* Cameroon. There are no UK bilateral aid programmes in Equatorial Guinea.

(a) The Gambia

		Commitment		
Sector	*Programme*	*£ million*	*From*	*To*
Education	Basic Education Support for Poverty Reduction	3.5	2005	2010
Governance	Legal Capacity Building programme	2.65	2004	2010
	Financial Governance programme	1.7	2004	2009
	Support to the Pro-Poor Advocacy Group	0.57	2005	2009
Civil Society	Concern Universal: Empowering Civil Society Organisations	0.55	2006	2009

(b) Ghana

		Commitment		
Sector	*Programme*	*£ million*	*From*	*To*
Poverty Reduction	Poverty Reduction Budget Support	126	2006	2009
Education	Support to Education Strategic Plan	105	2006	2015
Health	Ghana Health Sector Support programme	42.5	2008	2012
Water and Sanitation	Water Sector Improvement Project	7.7	2005	2008
HIV/AIDS	Ghana Multi Sectoral HIV/AIDS programme	7.5	2006	2009
Private Sector Development	Support to Government of Ghana Private Sector Strategy	7.2	2005	2009
	Support to Business Associations	3.2	2004	2009
Governance	Land Administration Project	6.06	2004	2009
	Governance Research and Advocacy programme	3.535	2004	2010
	Institutional Strengthening for Ministry of Manpower Youth and Employment	3.3	2008	2012
	DFID Support to Financial Sector	3.1	2007	2011
	Catalytic Intervention Fund	2.5	2006	2009
	DFID Statistics Secondment to the World Bank	0.45	2008	2012
Civil Society	Civil Society Rights and Advocacy programme	4.8	2004	2009
Food and Agriculture	Support to Food and Agriculture Harmonisation	5.2	2007	2008
	Food Security and Agriculture Recovery Management II (FARM II)	1.2	2008	2008
Humanitarian	Ghana Floods—DFID Support to CARE	0.343	2008	2008

(c) Cameroon

		Commitment		
Sector	*Programme*	*£ million*	*From*	*To*
Environment	Targeted Sector Budget Support to the Forest and Environment Sector programme (FESP)	4	2006	2009
	Basket Fund Technical Capacity Building to the FESP	4	2005	2008
	Forest Governance Facility	2.38	2006	2009
	World Bank/DFID collaboration to support the forestry sector	0.64	2004	2009

Africa: Vulture Funds

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to support poor and indebted African nations from the negative effects of vulture funds. [215642]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is addressing this problem in two ways. We are working to prevent debts being sold to vulture funds in the first place and to limit the damage done in cases where debts have already been acquired by vulture funds.

To reduce the risk of debts being sold to vulture funds we have been working with the World Bank to help poor countries buy back their commercial debts at a substantial discount through the Debt Reduction Facility (DRF). Last year the UK called for assistance from the DRF to be available earlier for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) to reduce the risk of debts falling into the hands of vulture funds. This was agreed in April 2008 by the World Bank Board. We have announced a commitment of up to £10 million for future DRF country operations.

We are also working to help HIPC countries access the legal resources and expertise necessary to defend themselves in cases where their debts are already in the hands of vulture funds. We are pleased that the Board of the African Development Bank agreed in April, with sustained UK support, to promote the establishment of an independent Legal Support Facility to advise countries on how best to tackle vulture fund activity.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213288]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is set out in full in the following tables. Figures for non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID senior civil servants in 2007-08 are being prepared and are not currently available.

Non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID senior civil servants (SCS)

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of awards	57	68	65	62
Number of awards as a proportion of the number of SCS staff (percentage)	73	79	77	71
Total cost (£)	189,500	266,750	377,100	504,000
Largest individual payment (£)	5,407	5,500	8,000	12,500

Non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID staff below SCS

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Number of awards	654	508	1,106	1,020	387
Number of awards as a proportion of the number of HCS staff (percentage)	35	28	63	62	23
Total cost (£)	285,601	230,600	515,865	558,233	199,670
Largest individual payment (£)	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150

[1] The Bonus award scheme for DFID staff below the SCS ended on 31 July 2007.

The significant differences in the number of awards from 2005-06 onwards is because changes were made to the Special Achievement Awards scheme as part of a new pay deal in 2004-05.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to control the amount of new debt that heavily indebted nations may accumulate. [215597]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government play a leading role in resolving the debt problems of the poorest countries, and as part of this, we have been at the forefront of international initiatives on responsible lending and borrowing. We strongly support the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF), introduced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in April 2005. This framework helps countries and lenders make informed decisions about new lending, and it determines the terms on which the World Bank and others provide support. Assistance is provided on grant terms to countries that risk accumulating too much debt.

The UK has been working within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to build support for the DSF. In January, members agreed guidelines on their own new lending to the poorest countries. Since 1997, the Government have been carefully examining new lending to heavily indebted poor countries. We provide support for a proposed project only if it is clear that the country can afford to repay the loan and that the lending clearly contributes to a country's economic and social development. DFID also funds work to build the debt management capacity of heavily indebted poor countries.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides for the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF); and if he will list the beneficiaries of the programmes organised by the DSF. [215641]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has been a strong supporter of the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF), introduced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in April 2005. It guides borrowers and lenders in considering new loans. It balances the financing countries require for development with the need to reduce the risks of an excessive build up of debt in the future. The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Export Credit and Guarantee Department (ECGD) and HM Treasury to ensure all export credits provided by the UK are fully consistent with the DSF. The UK is also working hard internationally to support the DSF. Within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), we have agreed guidelines on lending to poor countries which came into effect in January 2008.

The DSF is a framework that guides the terms on which the existing aid programmes of the major multilateral development banks (MDBs) are provided. It is used by the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The DSF assesses each country's debt situation and the MDBs provide all their aid as grants to any country at risk of debt distress.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Eritrea in each year since 2001; what types of aid were provided; and if he will make a statement. [213356]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	1.511
2002-03	2.746
2003-04	2.369
2004-05	1.310
2005-06	2.308
2006-07	3.490

Notes:
95.6 per cent. of all the above was humanitarian assistance.
4 per cent. was other bilateral aid (i.e. grants)
0.4 per cent. was technical cooperation (to 2003-04)

UK support to Eritrea is focused on humanitarian need, channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations and UN agencies. Department for International Development (DFID) framework for Eritrea for 08/09 is £3.1 million.

The full breakdown of bilateral aid is published in Table 12.1 of "Statistics on International Development 2002-03 - 2006-07", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House or on-line at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2007/contents.asp.

International Finance Facility for Immunisation Bonds

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of global financial turbulence and projections of future global growth on innovative financial instruments for development, with particular reference to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation bonds. [213234]

Gillian Merron: To date the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) has issued two bonds through the international capital markets, raising approximately US$1.2 billion dollars for the immunisation and health systems strengthening programmes of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI Alliance). IFFIm contributed to the GAVI Alliance's results in 2007 and early 2008. Some of these results include:

immunising 194 million children in 32 developing countries with life saving measles vaccine;

immunising more than 100 million children under the age of five against polio;

helping immunise 26 million women against tetanus.

IFFIm is on track to achieving its objective to provide frontloaded and predictable funding to the GAVI Alliance in order to immunise millions of people, and to save five million children's lives by 2015 and a further five million adult lives thereafter.

Despite the current problems in the financial markets, IFFIm was able to issue the second bond in March this year through the Japanese capital market; raising US$223 million for the GAVI Alliance. Plans are underway to issue further IFFIm bonds in the coming years.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what allocation his Department has made for language training for departmental staff in 2008-09. [215294]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a central budget for language training. Responsibility for sourcing and funding is devolved to divisions. Where appropriate to business needs divisions provide a range of language training opportunities, for example Portuguese for staff in Mozambique or French for those operating in Rwanda.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will hold discussions with his G8 counterparts to seek an increase in their funding of development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [214139]

Mr. Thomas: G8 Development Ministers at their meeting in Tokyo on 5-6 April stated that they remain firmly committed to working to fulfil their commitments on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) made at Gleneagles. In preparation for the G8 Summit in July and the Follow-Up Conference on Financing for Development in November, we are continuing to discuss with our G8 partners the increased funding necessary to achieve the millennium development goals.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Disease Control

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government has taken to improve biosecurity; [213192]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to increase public understanding of biosecurity. [213193]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: I assume my hon. Friend refers to farm biosecurity relating to controlling the spread of animal disease. The Government are currently running the Give Disease the Boot campaign, which provides livestock owners and veterinarians with information on a range of diseases and how best to protect the health of their animals and the health of the farming industry.

DEFRA has produced various materials promoting the need for vigilance, and providing information about how to spot disease and prevent its introduction and spread. This information is available on the DEFRA website.

Leaflets offering biosecurity advice to animal keepers are distributed by DEFRA at the Livestock Markets Roadshow, which is touring 80 towns in England during 2008. Key messages promoting biosecurity and vigilance are also featured in publications such as Farming Link.

During exotic disease outbreaks, tighter biosecurity requirements apply, and rules are notified to the people affected by them.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will abolish set-aside in advance of any EU decision to do so. [212256]

Jonathan Shaw: Set-aside is an EU requirement linked to the single payment scheme and it is not open to member states to reach their own decisions on whether it should apply. The UK supported the Commission's proposal last year to set the rate at zero for the 2008 harvest because of high cereal prices. We also support the Commission's proposal in the CAP Health Check to abolish set-aside as from the 2009 harvest and agree that steps should be taken to retain the environmental benefits that set-aside has delivered.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide grant aid towards the cost of slurry storage facilities on farms arising from the implementation of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Directive. [214331]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is not intending to provide a capital grant scheme for the construction of slurry stores in part because past experience has shown that this may simply increase supply prices and merely postpone the impact of market forces.

Animal Welfare: International Cooperation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to support proposals for a UN declaration on animal welfare; and if he will make a statement. [213039]

Jonathan Shaw: We support the initiative of a UN declaration on animal welfare and recognise the importance of such initiatives in raising awareness of animal welfare on a global basis.

Bees

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued in the last 12 months and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Bees Act 1980; and if he will make a statement. [212363]

Jonathan Shaw: No statutory instruments or departmental circulars consequential to the Bees Act 1980 have been issued in the last 12 months. The European Commission is currently considering protective measures in respect of 'Aethina tumida', the small hive beetle, which may require implementation by domestic legislation in the next 12 months.

A draft Bee Health Strategy has been developed in consultation with interested organisations representing beekeepers. This was published for consultation on 8 April. The consultation closes on 29 August 2008. The strategy will help determine priorities for the Bee Health Programme and associated research and will define responsibility for action on bee pests and diseases.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to (i) monitor and (ii) control diseases in bees; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [212392]

Jonathan Shaw: The National Bee Unit (NBU), part of the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), an executive agency of DEFRA, delivers the bee health programme in England. The aim of the programme is to control the spread of endemic notifiable diseases of honey bees and to identify and manage the risk associated with new exotic pests and diseases that may be introduced.

The NBU operates a statutory inspection programme for notifiable diseases and pests, and provides a comprehensive training and education programme for beekeepers to enable them to become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry.

In 2007, beekeepers benefited from more than 26,000 colony inspections and an extensive programme of training, including over 600 technical events, delivered by the NBU to help them improve disease control through good apiary management.

Since the beginning of April 2008, 33 parliamentary questions have been received and approximately 230 letters and emails from MPs and members of the public have been received on the issue of bee health in the same period.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department provided for research into beekeeping in each year since 1997. [212393]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. gentleman to the answer I gave on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 855W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* the National Bee Unit and *(b)* the Bee Inspectorate received from his Department in each year since 1997; and how much each will receive in 2008-09. [212394]

Jonathan Shaw: Expenditure on the National Bee Unit, which includes the Bee Inspectorate, by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government are as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2003-04	1,518,000
2004-05	1,518,000
2005-06	1,518,000
2006-07	1,518,000
2007-08	1,518,000
2008-09	1,608,000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many beekeepers each National Bee Unit inspector is responsible for in the six months of the year in which inspections are undertaken; and how many each was responsible for in that period in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005. [212395]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of beekeepers for which bee inspectors have responsibility varies according to the inspector's allocated area and whether they are employed on a part-time or full-time basis. In 1997, 2001 and 2005, apiary visits totalling 3,801, 3,706 and 4,053 respectively were carried out. Many inspectors conduct around 100 to 150 visits, and some 200 to 250 visits, per season. In addition, regional bee inspectors are available all year and can carry out inspections outside the traditional season. Inspections are targeted in areas where disease risk and colony density are highest and about 10 per cent. of the total number of apiaries is inspected each year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation regulates (i) beekeeping and (ii) bee products; what recent representations he has received on this legislation; and if he will make a statement. [212411]

Jonathan Shaw: The Bees Act 1980 empowers Ministers to make orders to control pests and diseases affecting bees, and provides powers of entry for authorised persons.

The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006 makes provisions for the notification and control of statutory pests and implements community legislation on post import controls for imports of bees from third countries. The Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (England) Regulations implement community legislation relating to the importation of bees and apiculture products. The Honey Regulations 2003 make provisions for the specification and labelling of honey. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2007 make provisions for the authorisation, manufacture, classification, distribution and administration of veterinary medicinal products.

Strengthening the enforcement of existing bee health regulations on disease control, including the import of honey bees is addressed in the draft Bee Health Strategy, which was published for public consultation on 8 April. DEFRA has received no recent representations on the legislation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the population of each species of bee in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England in each year since 1980. [212412]

Jonathan Shaw: No such estimate has been made. There are about 250 species of bee in the UK, and c. 170 have been recorded in Essex. The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society:

www.bwars.com

records the distribution of British species; information on different species of bee is also available on the National Biodiversity Network website:

www.nbn.org.uk.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many beekeepers there were in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212418]

Jonathan Shaw: Five beekeepers in Southend and 509 beekeepers in Essex are currently registered with the National Bee Unit. Historical data are not available. The actual number of beekeepers in these areas will be higher as registration is not compulsory.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire, (Mr. Williams), of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 913-4W, on bovine tuberculosis, what progress he has made in his consideration of the conclusions of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle Tuberculosis on the potential role of badger culling in controlling tuberculosis in cattle. [214175]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 798W, to the hon. Member for South-East Cornwall (Mr. Breed). The position remains unchanged. We continue to consider all the complex evidence on this issue and will respond to the Committee as soon as our deliberations are complete.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the scientific evidence relating to badger to cattle transmission of bovine tuberculosis evaluated by his Department in the last 10 years. [214224]

Jonathan Shaw: The scientific evidence relating to badger to cattle transmission of bovine tuberculosis has already been published in the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG)'s Final Report (18 July 2007). This and previously published interim reports of work carried out during the trial are available on the DEFRA website, alongside a list of peer-reviewed research papers published by the ISG and their research assistants.

DEFRA also publishes the final reports of all its funded research projects, some of which are relevant to questions about the transmission of bTB from badgers to cattle. These are also available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on policies to deal with bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [214237]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with his French counterpart on policy to deal with bovine tuberculosis.

Carrot Fly

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek discussions at EU level to review the decision under the EU Pesticides Directive to ban the use of pesticides that treat carrot fly. [214433]

Mr. Woolas: A number of pesticides used for carrot fly control were withdrawn from use in the United Kingdom either for commercial reasons or following a review of anticholinesterase active substances. The substances concerned were subsequently withdrawn in the European Community following a review under Council Directive 91/414/EEC. Manufacturers of these substances may resubmit applications for approval if they wish to do so, for consideration in accordance with criteria for protection of health and the environment set out in EC and national legislation.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methods of controlling carrot fly are available to amateur gardeners. [214434]

Mr. Woolas: No insecticides are authorised for amateur use specifically for carrot fly control. Gardeners may use any insecticide authorised for amateur use on edible crops, but their effectiveness may be limited. Effective means of physical control include using covers or barrier fences, avoiding sowing during the time of peak flight activity of carrot fly, and harvesting early to avoid damage from later generations.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on a less environmentally damaging alternative to the pesticide dieldrin to treat carrot fly. [214435]

Mr. Woolas: Use of dieldrin for the control of carrot fly was prohibited in 1979.

As part of PSD's alternative crop protection technologies research programme, a project is currently underway to investigate the control of soil-dwelling horticultural pests such as carrot fly using the staphylinid beetle Atheta coriaria. This work aims to build on existing knowledge to further develop this native beetle as a biological control agent.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the ban on the use of pesticides under the EU Council Directive 79/117 on the incidence of carrot fly. [214436]

Mr. Woolas: Use of HCH and dieldrin for control of carrot fly was prohibited in 1979 under Council Directive 79/117/EEC. Alternative pesticides were available at that time and the directive is not expected to have affected the incidence of carrot fly.

Cattle: Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many imported cattle were accompanied by inadequate paperwork when arriving at a UK port in each of the last three years. [212797]

Jonathan Shaw: Cattle imported from third countries must enter the UK (and the Community) through a border inspection post (BIP). Individual BIPs hold their own information regarding statistics surrounding import figures relating to inadequate paperwork.

Animal Health has been responsible for this area of work since December 2007. In the time from December 2007 to May 2008, Animal Health has received 12 non-compliance reports relating to cattle. Collective figures for such reports, prior to this time, are not available centrally.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live cattle were imported into the UK in each of the last three years. [212798]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table gives the number of live cattle recorded as imported into the UK in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Please note these figures are obtained using VAT records and will exclude some EU trade for businesses which are below the VAT threshold. As a result, actual trade levels may be higher than those given.

Live cattle

	Number
2005	5,455
2006	8,261
2007	10,013

Note:
2007 data are subject to amendments.
Sources:
HM Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis, DEFRA

Central Science Laboratory: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards meeting the Central Science Laboratory performance targets for 2007-08, broken down by target. [212902]

Jonathan Shaw: For information on progress made by the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) towards the 2007-08 performance targets, please see the CSL annual report and accounts for 2007-08, published on 18 June 2008. This is available on the CSL website at:

www.csl.gov.uk/newsAndResources/cslAnnualReport0708.pdf

Commission for Rural Communities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the planned budget for the Commission for Rural Communities is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2010-11. [214809]

Jonathan Shaw: The Commission for Rural Communities grant in aid from DEFRA is £6.4 million for 2008-09. Final decisions on DEFRA budgets (and the funding it gives to its sponsored bodies and Executive Agencies) for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been made. We expect to make an announcement on 2009-10 budgets by 31 August and on 2010-11 in the spring of 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are employed by the Commission for Rural Communities; and how many are expected to be employed by it in each of the next three years. [214810]

Jonathan Shaw: The Commission for Rural Communities currently employs 58.9 full-time equivalents. Decisions on future staff numbers are for the Commission's management.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210990]

Jonathan Shaw: I have arranged for placement in the Library a copy of the chart of accounts for 2008-09 which reflects the Department's revised budget framework for the current year. This shows the budget relationships and account codes that are being used following the restructuring of the Department along programme and project lines and does not reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212876]

Jonathan Shaw: The value of property held by DEFRA and the principal associated public bodies is:

	Value (£)	*Valuation date*
(a) DEFRA	541,249,000	March 2008
(b) Associated bodies		
Environmental Agency	2,276,329,000	March 2008
Natural England (National Nature Reserves)	4,280,000	March 2006
Natural England (Office Estate)	1,593,000	March 2008

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213400]

Jonathan Shaw: The departmental property assets are revalued every five years in accordance with accountancy practices. In addition, an annual review of asset values is undertaken and any change in value is restated within the central departmental accounts.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1327-28W, on departmental public participation, how much each *(a)* survey, *(b)* questionnaire and *(c)* other service cost; and how many members of the public participated in each activity. [207327]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA conducts regular detailed research amongst both the general public and selected target groups to inform its policy and communication planning and evaluation. The following table records the surveys, questionnaires and other services conducted by third parties which received funding from DEFRA and which sought opinion, and which were provided in completed and agreed form during the financial year 2007-08.

Company which conducted it	*Title of report*	*Cost of report to DEFRA (£)*	*Number of participants*	*Notes/(£)*
Cognition Market Intelligence	VMD Customer Feedback Survey	14,025	52	Pharmaceutical companies, farmers, slaughterhouses and retailers
Continental Research	Business Attitudes to Resource Efficiency	8,250	254	Businesses
Entec UK Ltd	Understanding the barriers to flood resilience	43,622	1,131	Businesses and public
Ipsos MORI	Attitudes to use of organic waste on agricultural land	48,855	500	Farmers
University of Reading	Survey into farmers attitudes toward a TB cattle vaccine	8,250	287	Farmers
British Market Research Bureau	Public awareness of personal food imports	4,995	2,000	
British Market Research Bureau	Public Attitudes Towards Farmers	13,585	1,717	
Creative Research	Rabies Restrictions Review Consumer Workshops	33,907	68-72	
GFK	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restrictions of Chemicals (REACH) Awareness Raising Campaign tracking research	27,750	800	Businesses

Company which conducted it	*Title of report*	*Cost of report to DEFRA (£)*	*Number of participants*	*Notes/(£)*
IFF Research	Illegal Foods Campaign Tracking 06-07	37,500	600	
Kate Willis	Fallen Stock Sheep Farmers Research	34,775	58-66	Farmers
Marketing Synergie International	Illegal Food Imports Creative Development	23,315	48-60	
Research Works	Creative testing of the filler Personal food imports Filler testing	13,500	c. 42	
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Distributional Impacts of Personal Carbon Trading	26,000	0	Used existing data from English House Condition Survey and UK Expenditure and Food Survey
Opinion Leader and Enviros Consulting	Personal Carbon Trading: Public Acceptability	50,000	92	
2CV	Natural Environment Message Testing Research	63,250	77	
British Market Research Bureau	Chewing Gum Action Group Campaign evaluation	0	1,923	Cost funded by industry: 55,150
British Market Research Bureau	Omnibus research into Awareness of Endangered Species Trade	0	1,717	Included as part of 'Public Attitudes Towards Farmers' Omnibus fee
Edcomms	Natural Environment Communications Desk Research	41,200	12	Stakeholders were interviewed as part of scoping stage otherwise this was a desk report
CML Market Research	Food Campaign Message Research	29,756	78	
University of Exeter	Contemporary livestock farming and watercourse pollution: a citizen's jury approach	19,740	15	The whole contract cost, of which the jury was included
MVA consultancy, commissioned by Consumer Council for Water on behalf of the Water Saving Group	Campaigns to make a difference: Research into identifying water saving messages	10,000	90	Figure includes VAT. Is fraction of total cost of 33,672.22 (including VAT), funded by the Water Saving Group
Social Research and Consultancy	Consumer attitudes to water efficiency of bathroom fittings: analysis of quantitative research	5,165	1,088	
ICM	Climate Change Tracking Wave 6: Omnibus survey covering public knowledge and attitudes to climate change	31,161	3,129	
ICM	Climate Change Tracking Wave 5: Omnibus survey covering public knowledge and attitudes to climate change	31,436	3,113	
British Market Research Bureau	ACT ON CO_2 climate change campaign: post tracking	72,775	1,030	
Opinion Leader Research	Citizen summit on climate change	164,957	152-174	
Brook Lyndhurst	Public Understanding of Sustainable Energy Use in the Home	72,335	114	
Ipsos MORI	Public Understanding of Sustainable Finance and Investment	54,150	c. 100	
Opinion Leader Research	Public Understanding of Sustainable Consumption of Food	42,450	c. 100	

Company which conducted it	*Title of report*	*Cost of report to DEFRA (£)*	*Number of participants*	*Notes/(£)*
Scott Wilson	Public Understanding of Sustainable Transport	77,100	100	
University of Surrey	Public Understanding of Sustainable Leisure and Tourism	69,812	108	
Navigator	Waste Infrastructure Research	58,550	c. 154	
British Market Research Bureau	Survey of public attitudes and behaviour in relation to the environment	372,000	5,279	
University of Gloucestershire, CCRI and MLURI	Understanding and influencing positive behaviour change in farmers and rural land managers	120,000	78	Farmers and rural land-managers
Jigsaw Research	Defra: Engaging The Business Community in Environmental Issues	60,815	73	Businesses
Ipsos MORI	Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) Research	53,500	c. 360	Schools and local authorities

Departmental Records

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what files are held by his Department on *(a)* the Animal Welfare Bill of Session 2005-06 and *(b)* the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [212361]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department holds a number of files on both the Animal Welfare Bill and the Act, mainly relating to the development of the legislation.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212484]

Jonathan Shaw: The trades unions that represent members of staff in DEFRA and its agencies are Prospect, First Division and Public and Commercial Services.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services, *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* within the sector for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210456]

Jonathan Shaw: We have recently produced revised gender, race and disability equality schemes which reflect our commitment to supporting an inclusive culture in DEFRA. Our revised equality schemes and diversity strategy will tackle and address age discrimination through action planning. DEFRA's diversity strategy is also aligned to the Civil Service Diversity Strategy, 2008-11.

Consultation on proposals for the Single Equality Bill, A Framework for Fairness, signalled that the Government were considering the case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services under a proposed single public sector duty which would be extended to cover age. DEFRA was among 4,000 organisations who have responded to the consultation supporting the view that a single public duty replacing race, disability and gender duties should cover all protected groups. The Government will publish its response to the consultation shortly.

Fisheries: Environment Protection

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is compulsory for fishing boats off the English coast to use pingers to deter cetaceans and other sea life. [213901]

Jonathan Shaw: On 1 January 2006 European Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004 made the use of acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) mandatory for vessels over 12 m involved in fixed gear fisheries in the Celtic Sea, Channel and Western Waters. Technical problems, however, with current designs have precluded the full deployment of acoustic deterrent devices. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) has recently undertaken research on behalf of DEFRA into the effects of a bigger pinger on porpoise and dolphin distribution. We hope to have more details on the efficacy of the new pingers by spring next year.

Flood Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure flood defences are maintained on a regular basis; and if he will make a statement. [214080]

Mr. Woolas: We have a full programme of works across the country which is currently on course to improve protection from flooding and coastal erosion for more than 100,000 households over the 2004 spending review period (2005 to 2008). The programme comprises maintenance, repair and improvements, and is prioritised on the basis of the assets' contribution to reducing flood risk.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that adequate flood defences are in place before new housing is built in areas at risks from flooding; and if he will make a statement. [214081]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

Where new housing is exceptionally necessary in flood risk areas, Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk (PPS25), aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. If flood defences are needed in order to allow such development to proceed, PPS25 requires these works generally to be funded by developers. As the Environment Agency is now a statutory consultee for planning applications, it is able to provide expert advice on all proposals in flood risk areas.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the use of section 106 agreements to ensure flood defence problems caused by new developments are resolved and funded by developers; and if he will make a statement. [214082]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

No specific assessment of the use of planning obligations as regards flood defences has been carried out. Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk (PPS25), aims to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. If new or improved flood defences are necessary as a result of development, PPS25 requires these works generally to be funded by the developers in line with PPS25 annex G.

Local planning authorities can develop appropriate local policies and enter into planning obligations with developers in pursuit of this policy.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect that Planning Policy Statement No. 25 has had on the development of housing in areas of high flood risk; and if he will make a statement. [214083]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

We are taking a number of initiatives to assess the effectiveness of the policies in Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk" (PPS25). We are working with key stakeholders local authorities, developers, the Environment Agency and others to ensure PPS25 is implemented. The Environment Agency's annual High Level Target 5 report on planning and flooding, and our analysis of applications dealt with under the flooding Direction, indicate that PPS25 policy is working. We are investigating with DEFRA the progress that local authorities are making in preparing their strategic flood risk assessments. We also plan to examine whether there are any barriers to delivery which may be hindering local authorities from implementing PPS25.

Flood Control: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 166W, on flood control: Bournemouth, what steps the Government plans to take in response to representations on potential flooding in Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth. [215374]

Mr. Woolas: Hengistbury Head peninsular will be considered under the Shoreline Management plan (SMP) review covering Poole and Christchurch Bay. In order to maximise stakeholder engagement, the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP steering group, of which the Environment Agency is a member, created a website providing details of the process and progress on the plan.

The website allowed comments to be fed into the SMP process. The steering group also distributed an awareness raising leaflet to 500 stakeholders, including local MPs, councillors and residents' associations.

Flood Control: Planning

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek the introduction of a British Standard for flood resistant products in connection with Planning Policy Guidance 25. [214847]

Mr. Woolas: The British Standards Institution's Kitemark scheme already allows for the certification of flood resistance products. The Environment Agency supports the Kitemark scheme, as products with a Kitemark have been independently tested and proved fit for purpose. Details of the scheme and a list of certified products are available on the Environment Agency's website. The Environment Agency is sponsoring a revision of the current Kitemark scheme to update the content of the specification.

Planning Policy Statement 25 aims to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas by directing development to areas at lower risk to avoid and manage the risk. In exceptional circumstances where development is required in flood risk areas, it must be safe, not increase flood risk and be constructed so it is resilient to flooding.

Floods: Telephone Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* annual operation of the proposed telephone flood warning system. [215278]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA funds most of the Environment Agency's flood risk management including flood warning activities. The Environment Agency has informed me that the Floodline Warnings Direct system cost £14.2 million to develop and implement. The system is currently operational with over 350,000 customers registered.

The annual operational cost is currently £1.9 million.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the privacy of the people whose details will be contained on the proposed telephone flood warning system. [215300]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has informed me that the Floodline Warnings Direct system is hosted in a Fujitsu data centre which meets the international standard ISO27001 for Information Security Management. The scope of this standard is extensive, and Fujitsu's adherence to it is covered by regular BSI and internal audits. The Environment Agency adheres to the Data Protection Act regarding the collection, processing and maintenance of personal data.

Livestock: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many live lambs and sheep were exported for *(a)* slaughter and *(b)* further fattening in (i) April and (ii) May 2008; and how many of each were exported to each country of destination; [210818]

(2) how many live *(a)* calves, *(b)* adult cattle and *(c)* lambs and sheep were exported for (i) slaughter and (ii) further fattening in 2007; and how many of each were exported to each country of destination. [210819]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is currently being collected. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible, and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Meat: Imports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure imported meat meets UK standards; and if he will make a statement. [212672]

Jonathan Shaw: European Community legislation requires that meat imported into the UK—and elsewhere within the EU—is produced to the same animal health and public health standards throughout. Consignments of meat must be accompanied by veterinary certification which gives guarantees that the meat has been produced according to EU rules. The European Commission carries out inspection visits to exporting third countries to ensure compliance with EU public and animal health requirements.

All consignments of meat are checked on entry into the EU. Every consignment has a documentary and identity check, that is a check on the certificate and that the consignment matches the information in the certificate. 20 per cent. of consignments of red meat and 50 per cent. of consignments of poultry meat are physically checked. A physical check may include an organoleptic check (taste, appearance and smell), a temperature check (for frozen or chilled products), and laboratory tests for contaminants.

Noise: Pollution

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will publish noise maps for major roads in England as required in the EU Environmental Noise Directive; and which roads in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Basingstoke constituency will be mapped. [213949]

Jonathan Shaw: The interactive noise mapping website which shows major roads within agglomerations was published on 16 May 2008 and is available on the DEFRA website.

Major roads mapped outside these urban areas are also available on the DEFRA website.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the public consultation will be held on noise maps developed to meet the requirements of the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 and Directive 2002/49/EC on environmental noise; and how the consultation will be conducted. [213981]

Jonathan Shaw: The regulations, which covered the preparation of noise maps, were consulted on in 2005.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on a consultation to develop a national noise strategy; and if he will make a statement. [213982]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government plan to publish a combined National Noise Strategy for England, which will cover ambient and neighbourhood noise, for consultation later this year.

Oral Questions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with the Leader of the House the number of opportunities he will have to answer oral questions from hon. Members in the remainder of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [214587]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA answers oral questions every five weeks in line with the order of questions rota published by the Table Office. In 2008 DEFRA has answered questions on 31 January, 13 March, 1 May and 12 June. Further sessions will take place on 17 July and 6 November.

Rural Payments Agency: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards meeting the Rural Payments Agency's performance targets for 2007-08, broken down by target. [212901]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Payments Agency achieved all eight targets set by the Secretary of State including those for the Single Payment Scheme for the 2007-08 reporting year. The targets were announced by Lord Rooker on 26 June 2007 in his written ministerial statement.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [214009]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: My Department has not commissioned or funded any television programmes in the past three years or in 2008-09.

Tree Preservation Orders: Guildford

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2328W, on tree preservation orders: Guildford, whether bidders were advised no later than 19 May 2008; who the preferred bidder is; and whether legal completion of the sale is still expected to take place on or before 2 July 2008. [209918]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that all bidders were advised as to the status of their bid on or before 19 May. A purchaser was identified via the formal tender process: a contract was exchanged on 19 May; and completion is still scheduled for 2 July 2008.

Waste Management: Finance

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to each county council in England for recycling and sustainable waste management in each year since 1979. [209673]

Joan Ruddock: The main source of funding for local authorities' waste management services is Formula Grant allocated by central Government. It is for local authorities to decide what proportion of their funding to invest in waste management services, including recycling. Other funding allocated to authorities in England for waste management since 1997 is shown in the following table:

	Funding provided (£ million)						
Scheme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	50	90	90	45			
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant				40	105	110	
Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant							78
London Waste and Recycling Fund							20
Grant to Relieve Spending Pressures on Waste			20				
Reward-only Pilot Schemes				5			
Private Finance Initiative	70	100	125	130	255	280	600
Local Communications Fund (WRAP)				16.2			3
Behavioural Change Local Fund (WRAP)					13		

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Foreign Investment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk, (Mr. Simpson) of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1364W, on investment in Burma, what progress has been made in discussions between the UK and EU partners on restrictive measures against Burmese companies as agreed at the October 2007 General Affairs and External Relations Council; whether a full prohibition on new investment in enterprises in Burma engaged in the logging, timber and mining of metals and minerals industries is under consideration; and what assessment he has made of the effect of Cyclone Nargis on discussions on restrictive measures at EU level. [214421]

Meg Munn: In November 2007 EU partners agreed a prohibition on new investment in enterprises engaged in logging, timber, mining of metals and minerals, precious or semi-precious stones as well as related technical and financial assistance. This came into force with the publication of EC Regulation 194/2008 on 10 March 2008.

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) conclusions agreed to consider further financial measures at the April GAERC in 2008. The European Commission is working on an options paper. A review of two annexes to the current common position, listing companies targeted by the EU measures, is due for completion in July.

Cyclone Nargis struck Burma after the new common position was agreed. The financial and other measures set out in the common position target the regime's leaders and those who benefit from its policies, rather than the ordinary Burmese people. Any future financial measures would be designed to meet the same objective. The common position also restricts the scope and means of delivery of non-humanitarian aid or development programmes, but these restrictions do not apply to humanitarian aid such as that provided in the wake of Cyclone Nargis.

Republic of Ireland: Lisbon Treaty

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on pursuing the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty following the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland. [213230]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement to the House on this issue on 23 June.

All 27 member states must ratify the Lisbon Treaty before it can enter into force. In the UK, the EU (Amendment) Bill received Royal Assent on 19 June.

Article 6 of the Lisbon Treaty provides that:

> "This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic".

Ratification is the process by which the UK indicates its consent to be bound by a treaty under international law. The procedure for ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon on behalf of the UK is the same as that for previous EU amending treaties. An instrument of ratification is drafted and submitted for the signature of Her Majesty The Queen. This is then sealed and bound and forwarded to our embassy in Rome for delivery to the Italian Government as depositary.

The administrative arrangements for ratification of the Lisbon Treaty were initiated following the granting of the Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Bill on 19 June 2008. The completion of these arrangements normally takes a number of weeks.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Somalia. [215025]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: We are pleased that the UN sponsored talks in Djibouti resulted in the initialling of a peace agreement between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for Re-Liberation of Somalia on 9 June 2008. This is a positive step and we look forward to all parties formally signing soon and fulfilling their commitment to cease armed confrontation. We continue to work closely with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould Abdalla, to encourage and support the TFG in reaching out to all groups which reject violence and to pursue increased inclusiveness in government and a process of national reconciliation.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [213832]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: This information is not held centrally. To provide an answer would incur a disproportionate cost.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what mechanism the UK would ratify the Treaty of Lisbon; and whether such ratification is revocable prior to the Treaty coming into effect. [212909]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Article 6 of the Lisbon Treaty provides that:

> "This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic".

Ratification is the process by which the UK indicates its consent to be bound by a treaty under international law. The procedure for ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon on behalf of the UK is the same as that for previous EU amending treaties. An instrument of ratification is drafted and submitted for the signature of Her Majesty The Queen. This is then sealed and bound and forwarded to our embassy in Rome for delivery to the Italian Government as depositary.

The administrative arrangements for ratification of the Lisbon Treaty were initiated following the granting of the Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Bill on 19 June 2008. The completion of these arrangements normally takes a number of weeks.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to ratify the Treaty of Lisbon; what the procedure for ratification is; and when UK ratification will come into effect. [213818]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: Article 6 of the Lisbon treaty provides that:

> "This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic".

Ratification is the process by which the UK indicates its consent to be bound by a treaty under international law. The procedure for ratification of the treaty of Lisbon on behalf of the UK is the same as that for previous EU amending treaties. An instrument of ratification is drafted and submitted for the signature of Her Majesty the Queen. This is then sealed and bound and forwarded to our embassy in Rome for delivery to the Italian Government as depositary.

The administrative arrangements for ratification of the Lisbon treaty were initiated following the granting of the Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Bill on 19 June. The completion of these arrangements normally takes a number of weeks.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the instruments of ratification required under Article 6 of the Treaty of Lisbon are; when the Government plans to deposit the instruments of ratification with the depositary in Rome; and if he will make a statement. [213841]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: Article 6 of the Lisbon treaty provides that:

> "This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic".

Ratification is the process by which the UK indicates its consent to be bound by a treaty under international law. The procedure for ratification of the treaty of Lisbon on behalf of the UK is the same as that for previous EU amending treaties. An instrument of ratification is drafted and submitted for the signature of Her Majesty the Queen. This is then sealed and bound and forwarded to our embassy in Rome for delivery to the Italian Government as depositary.

The administrative arrangements for ratification of the Lisbon Treaty were initiated following the granting of the Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Bill on 19 June. The completion of these arrangements normally takes a number of weeks.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regeneration

8. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to change the procedures for making decisions on regeneration. [214842]

Mr. Dhanda: Officials are finalising proposals for a regeneration framework which we expect to publish in the summer.

9. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to promote community aspirations through regeneration. [214843]

Hazel Blears: Through programmes New Deal for Communities and Neighbourhood Management we have put residents and their aspirations at the heart of regeneration and local delivery and in March we announced how we would build on our commitment to this agenda through our plans for a new Empowerment White Paper.

Local Area Agreement: Barnsley and Doncaster

10. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in local area agreement negotiations in Barnsley and Doncaster. [214844]

Hazel Blears: I am delighted to confirm the successful conclusion of Local Area Agreement negotiations. This represents a landmark in the relationship between the Government and our local partners.

In Barnsley and Doncaster, we have worked closely with local partners to agree ambitious LAAs which focus on tackling deprivation, reducing health inequalities and improving the prospects of children and young people.

Community Cohesion Strategy

11. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support she is giving to Christian faith groups as part of her community cohesion strategy. [214845]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government recognise and welcome the great contribution people who are motivated by faith make to their local communities and their contribution to building cohesion. Our new inter faith strategy to be published in July will set out further our commitments on this important agenda.

Social Housing

12. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families are on social housing waiting lists. [214846]

Caroline Flint: On 1 April 2007 there were 1.67 million households on the waiting list for social housing in England.

Interfaith Strategy

13. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on developing the interfaith strategy. [214848]

Mr. Dhanda: The consultation on the interfaith strategy closed on 7 March. We plan to publish the strategy in July.

Police and Health Services: Oversight

14. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to improve the capacity of local communities to oversee police and health services. [214849]

Hazel Blears: A White Paper on empowering citizens and communities will be published shortly. It will set out plans to give communities a more significant role in shaping local decisions and services.

Family Homes

15. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many family homes she expects local authorities to build in 2008-09. [214851]

Caroline Flint: We do not set targets for the homes that local authorities build; but through PPS3, 'Planning and Housing', we have given local authorities greater flexibility to meet specific local needs, and bring about the building of family homes.

Additionally we have set the Housing Corporation the target that 30 per cent. of its social rented homes completed through its Affordable Housing Programme in 2008-09 should be family homes with three or more bedrooms.

Community Groups

16. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on implementing proposals for the transfer of assets to community groups; and what effect the Empowerment White Paper consultation will have on this process. [214852]

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on her proposals for the transfer of assets to community groups; and what effect the Empowerment White Paper consultation will have on this process. [214850]

Hazel Blears: Since May 2007, community groups have been assisted on asset transfer projects in 20 demonstration areas; a further 12 areas commenced in April 2008; the Cabinet Office has allocated £30 million in refurbishment grants; and new guidance for local authorities has been developed.

The White Paper will be published before the summer recess.

Energy Efficiency

17. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend planning legislation to require improvements in energy efficiency in listed buildings, conservation areas and National Parks. [214853]

Mr. Iain Wright: Historic buildings vary considerably in the extent to which they can accommodate energy efficiency measures without losing their special interest. Our present policy is to encourage owners of historic buildings to improve their energy efficiency where and to the extent that is practically possible, provided this does not prejudice the character of the building or increase the risk of long-term deterioration of the fabric or fittings. However, we do not rule out the possibility of legislation.

Housing and Planning Targets

18. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect of housing market forecasts on the delivery of Government housing and planning targets. [214854]

Caroline Flint: The Government's long-term targets in respect of housing and planning delivery remain as set out in Public Service Agreement Target 20 (Long-Term Supply and Affordability).

The Government monitor closely current trends in the housing market. I have commissioned my Department, working with English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and the Homes and Communities Agency transition team, to review where there is scope to do more across our programmes to address current challenges in the housing market and create the right conditions for rapid recovery.

Trees

19. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that trees of national importance or significance are identified and protected. [214856]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are bringing forward a package of measures through the Planning Bill, secondary legislation and revised guidance to improve the protection given to trees. In particular, we will be making it clearer in our guidance that trees of historic and cultural value can be protected as well as trees with visual amenity. We also intend to remove exemptions for dying trees and restricting the works that can be undertaken to dangerous trees to that necessary to remove the danger, which will significantly increase the protection of veteran trees.

The Department will be setting up a working group to assist with the preparation of revised guidance on the operation of the Tree Preservation Order system, and to explore whether a voluntary register of trees might help to further protect trees of special importance.

Regional Spatial Strategy: South-West

20. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish her response to the draft regional spatial strategy for the south-west. [214857]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State is currently considering whether to propose changes to the draft RSS in response to the report of the independent panel that conducted the Examination in Public. The intention is to publish any proposed changes, for a 12-week period of consultation, later in the summer.

Eco-towns

21. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue planning policy statements in relation to eco-towns; and if she will make a statement. [214858]

Caroline Flint: We expect to publish a draft planning policy statement for consultation in July. It will be a material consideration in the determination of any planning application for an eco-town, particularly where the Development Plan is silent or out of date.

Temporary Accommodation

22. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the guidance to local authorities on the use of out-of-borough temporary accommodation. [214859]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are legally obliged to have regard to the "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities", which includes the suitable location of accommodation. I understand that my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing is to meet with a number of London boroughs to discuss their use of temporary accommodation as a result of notification of out-of-borough placements from our team of homelessness specialist advisers and my hon. Friend.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of domestic residential dwellings in each council tax band in the London Borough of Bexley. [215080]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 19 February 2008, *Official*

Report, column 613W, 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 924-25W, on council tax: valuation and 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1035-36W, if she will place in the Library copies of the calculations and work relating to the number of consequentials that informed the discussions at the Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England). [214994]

John Healey: No calculations or work were presented to the programme board on this issue.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within her Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214545]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215216]

Mr. Dhanda: In each of the last two financial years the Department has spent the following on magazines, newspapers and other publications:

	£
2006-07	373,760
2007-08	236,857

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in her Department has been since 1997. [214659]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long on average her Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215471]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East of England Regional Assembly

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the division of responsibilities between the Thames Gateway and the East of England Regional Assembly is; what mechanisms are in place for co-ordination of their activities; what geographical area each covers; and if she will make a statement. [214423]

Caroline Flint: The East of England regional assembly is the regional planning and housing body for the East of England; helps to co-ordinate public sector expenditure and activity in the region; and scrutinises the work of the East of England Development Agency. The regional assembly is responsible for preparing the regional spatial strategy (RSS) for the East of England.

The regional assembly covers six counties (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk) and four unitary authorities (Luton, Peterborough, Southend and Thurrock).

The Thames Gateway is a large scale regeneration programme covering South Essex, North Kent and East London, where the Government and their local delivery partners are working to create the conditions for growth and regeneration. The Thames Gateway in South Essex spans the districts of Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, and the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock.

The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in November 2007, sets out the Government's vision for the Gateway and identifies how over £9 billion funding from across Government will be invested in the Thames Gateway over the next three years.

Communities and Local Government's Thames Gateway Executive is responsible for co-ordinating the activity across Government to deliver the regeneration of the Gateway. It is also responsible for the management of the Department's £500 million funding programme for the Thames Gateway.

The East of England regional assembly is represented on the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership which co-ordinates the activities of central government, local and regional partners across the Thames Gateway.

Eco-towns: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to support the development of eco-towns in the current spending review period. [213896]

Caroline Flint: CSR07 allocated £1.7 billion of targeted funding over the CSR07 period for infrastructure in Growth Areas, the Thames Gateway, New Growth Points and eco-towns, including £300 million to continue the Community Infrastructure Fund. Decisions on the split and distribution of growth funding, including support for eco-towns, will be announced in due course.

Eco-towns: Green Belt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1176W, on eco-towns, how many hectares of greenfield development are included in each of the proposed eco-town developments. [213938]

Caroline Flint: As I set out in my answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) summary descriptions for each of the shortlisted eco-towns locations are set out in the consultation document, "Eco-towns - Living a greener future", and further information about the schemes, including the site, are available through the Department's website.

Many of the shortlisted bids make significant use of previously developed (brownfield) land. However, in some cases, development on greenfield land may be appropriate.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1037W, on eco-towns: planning permissions, whether types of development other than new homes with particular reference to *(a)* commercial development and *(b)* transport infrastructure, will be built on green belt land as part of any of the shortlisted eco-town bids. [213590]

Caroline Flint: We have said that no homes will be built on the green belt and our assessments will consider the effects of all development, not just homes, on the natural environment, green spaces and the green belt. We are actively encouraging innovative proposals that enhance our biodiversity and improve the natural environment, by integrating green spaces into the new towns. In some locations where fixed infrastructure such as railways or roads cross the green belt, it may be unavoidable to include development associated with these elements of infrastructure. Any development on the green belt in the final shortlisted locations would face the stringent tests set out in PPG 2: Green Belts, which has a presumption against inappropriate development.

Eco-towns: Planning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether houses built in eco-town developments will count towards the house building targets in the relevant local authority's core strategy. [213894]

Caroline Flint: Housing built in an eco-town can count towards the house building targets in the relevant local authority's core strategy, but local authorities need to keep in mind that housing targets are likely to rise over time to reflect the growing number of households, and need for housing.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue a *(a)* national policy statement and *(b)* planning policy statement on eco-towns. [213927]

Caroline Flint: We expect to publish a draft planning policy statement for consultation in July. It will be place specific, and will be an important material consideration in the determination of any planning application for an eco-town, particularly where the development plan is silent or out of date.

National policy statements set the framework for decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which is being considered under proposals in the Planning Bill. Its role will be to consider nationally significant infrastructure projects, such as proposals for major new power stations. This process will not apply to housing development, and there will not be a national policy statement for eco-towns. Planning applications for eco-towns will be submitted to the appropriate local authority.

Floods: Property Development

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses, in each region are *(a)* in and *(b)* due to be built in areas of high flood risk; and if she will make a statement. [214079]

Caroline Flint: The following table lists the number of properties that are in areas of high flood risk according to the Environment Agency's National Flood Risk Assessment (2006).

Region	*Number of properties*
North East	21,768
East Midlands	174,292
South East England	223,624
West Midlands	59,743
North West	144,091
East of England	143,267
South West	117,280
Greater London	531,438
Yorkshire and Humber	293,528

The Department does not hold information on where new houses will be built. Approval for new housing is the responsibility of local planning authorities, which are required to take account of Government policy including Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk.

Greenbelt: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1176W, on eco-towns, whether the *(a)* Maps on Taps and *(b)* MAGIC databases hold information on green gaps and green wedges. [213933]

Caroline Flint: The Maps on Tap service has been discontinued and the MAGIC database, run by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not hold information on green gaps or green wedges.

Homelessness: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* registered charities and *(b)* community-based schemes providing help for homeless people in Leeds Metropolitan District will receive funding for that work from her Department in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [215398]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is providing Leeds city council with £440,000 Homelessness Grant in 2008-09. Local authorities use the funding to tackle homelessness in their areas, which can include the funding of other organisations to help deliver their homelessness strategy. There is overall funding of £150 million going to local authorities and £50 million to the voluntary sector over the next three years—the largest ever cash injection into homelessness services.

Leeds city council has also received capital funding under our hostels programme: £430,000 for Faith Lodge hostel and £988,000 for the St. George's Crypt Centre. Both projects are run by St. George's Crypt. This is part of our significant investment of £170 million to improve hostels and day centres.

Housing Benefit: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on housing benefit in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. [214568]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is in the following table.

Total housing benefit payments for Peterborough city council (nominal terms)

	£ million
1996-97	33.1
1997-98	31.7
1998-99	31.0
1999-2000	31.2
2000-01	31.6
2001-02	32.0
2002-03	33.3
2003-04	32.7
2004-05	32.3
2005-06	36.7
2006-07	40.0

Notes:

1. Information sourced from local authority claims for Housing Revenue Account subsidy and housing benefit and council tax benefit subsidy.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
3. Figures presented are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data.
4. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of war pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate). *Source:*

DWP Expenditure Tables

Housing: Construction

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes have been built in each London local authority area in each year since 1992. [214326]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House. The information shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent and intermediate) built in each London borough since 1992-93; the figures exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

Statistics on affordable housing supply (new build and acquisitions) for England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 12 June and accompanying live tables. The web links are shown as follows:

Link to Affordable Housing Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/838468

Link to Affordable Housing Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [214789]

Mr. Iain Wright: The figures requested are presented as follows.

	Chorley	*Lancashire*	*North West*	*England*
2003-04	393	3,820	17,750	143,960
2004-05	305	3,870	17,910	155,900
2005-06	349	2,960	20,620	163,400
2006-07	253	2,250	18,110	167,580
2007-08	299	2,610	19,170	167,500

Source:

New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC). Regional and national totals include imputation for missing returns from local authorities. The local authority and county level figures are as reported and do not include imputation estimates.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings were started in each region in each of the last three years; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of new dwellings which will be started in the next two years. [213385]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows annual new house building starts in each region in England between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	8,076	7,833	7,207
North West	24,572	19,903	17,113
Yorkshire and Humber	16,694	16,984	14,926
East Midlands	18,376	18,217	14,737
West Midlands	15,657	15,685	14,556
East	24,397	21,313	20,987
London	25,542	21,094	17,163

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South East	31,033	31,622	31,064
South West	20,559	20,731	18,684
England	184,906	173,382	156,437

Source:
P2/P2a house building returns from local authorities and National House Building Council on new build starts

These figures refer to new build starts which do not directly relate to net additional dwellings, the key measure of housing supply.

The Department does not publish forecasts for house building.

Housing: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty domestic dwellings there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government Office region in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [212786]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of empty dwellings in England and each Government office region in 2006 and 2007.

Region	*Empty domestic dwellings as at 9 October 2006*	*Empty domestic dwellings as at 8 October 2007*
North East	48,287	48,066
North West	136,783	141,060
Yorkshire and the Humberside	90,947	101,035
East Midlands	65,495	69,805
West Midlands	79,208	80,359
East of England	68,485	69,072
London	86,701	84,596
South East	102,812	101,761
South West	69,441	66,881
England	748,159	762,635

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Housing: Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how an increase in *(a)* the number of residential dwellings and *(b)* the local population arising from the construction of additional residential dwellings is taken into account in determining revenue support grant allocations. [213895]

John Healey: Formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, where appropriate, is largely based on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with a measure of the authority's ability to raise income locally (i.e. the number of band-D equivalent properties within the area), relative to all other authorities providing the same services. We then ensure that every authority receives at least a minimum percentage increase (the 'floor') year-on-year on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function.

The number of residential dwellings in an authority will be reflected in the number of band-D equivalent properties (tax base) data provided by local authorities to the Department. Data from these returns are used in the calculation of tax base projections at the beginning of the three-year settlement period. Further, the mid-year population estimates and sub-national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) take into account the changes in population as a result of births, deaths and migration, both internally and internationally. We use the latest population data that are available from the ONS at the time in the calculation of Formula Grant for the three year settlement.

Housing: Low Incomes

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build social homes for rent have been constructed in each London local authority area since 1992. [214330]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House. The information shows the number of new social rent homes built in each London borough since 1992-93; the figures exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

Statistics on affordable housing supply (new build and acquisitions) for England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 12 June and accompanying live tables. The web links are shown as follows:

Link to Affordable Housing Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/838468

Link to Affordable Housing Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which London local authorities have submitted proposals for tackling overcrowding in response to her recent initiative on overcrowding; and if she will make a statement. [215546]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials have met with the following London local authorities to discuss their proposals for tackling overcrowding over the next year:

Barking and Dagenham
Camden
City of London
Croydon
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hounslow
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond
Southwark
Wandsworth
Westminster

Officials have meetings arranged with a further 11 London local authorities. Pathfinder authorities are building on the lessons learnt from the London pilots and developing schemes to make better use of existing stock for example by offering enhanced support to under occupiers who wish to move, supporting moves into other tenures and improving tenants' quality of life by mitigating the effect of overcrowding.

Housing: Regeneration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the research used to select the local areas chosen for the housing market renewal pathfinders; [213925]

(2) what the criteria were by which each of the locations were chosen for the housing market renewal pathfinders; [213926]

(3) on what grounds Birmingham was added to the locations for the Housing Market Renewal pathfinders; and what role the right hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) played in the decision as Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions. [213942]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Market Renewal (HMR) programme originated from a growing body of evidence' academic research, Government statistics and local anecdotal reports—all pointing to large scale abandonment of housing and neighbourhoods, resulting in low demand for housing.

Taking up this work, the Government carried out an exercise in two stages using its housing market data to identify those local authorities experiencing or most at risk from problems of low demand.

The first stage consisted of four parts:

1. All local authorities in the South East, London, South West and East regions were excluded on the grounds that none of those areas are experiencing widespread severe low demand.

2. Local authorities with low demand problems in either private or social sectors, but not both, were excluded, since these were unlikely to be symptomatic of a wider problem.

3. Local authorities with weak evidence of low demand in housing statistics returns were excluded.

4. Local authorities with low demand problems at small scale levels and which did not relate to wider markets were excluded.

Stage 2 then identified sub-regional groupings on the basis of areas which contained a large number of properties in low demand, a large number of properties at risk of low demand, and a high risk of more widespread failure in the short term due to unstable housing markets. Additional local authorities were added to the pathfinder groupings where the failure to include them was likely to have a serious impact on the success of action to tackle housing market failure.

This process led to the identification of the nine areas considered in immediate need or at highest risk of market failure, which included Birmingham/Sandwell. The Secretary of State approved the final list of areas selected as pathfinders.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions there are on physically opening windows in homes with a Level 6 Code for Sustainable Homes. [213929]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no restrictions placed on opening windows in the code at any level.

Local Government Finance: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average expenditure per head was by local authorities in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in the latest period for which figures are available. [214562]

John Healey: The average revenue and capital expenditure per head by local authorities in Bolton and Greater Manchester in 2006-07, the latest period for which figures are available is tabled as follows:

£ per head

	Revenue	*Capital*	*Total*
Bolton	1,585	397	1,982
Bury	1,343	177	1,520
Manchester	1,969	438	2,407
Oldham	1,517	480	1,997
Rochdale	1,684	326	2,010
Salford	1,761	549	2,310
Stockport	1,300	259	1,559
Tameside	1,830	313	2,143
Trafford	1,388	168	1,556
Wigan	1,431	317	1,748

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) and Capital Outturn (COR4) returns.

The definition of revenue expenditure used here is that expenditure funded from aggregate external finance (AEF), council tax and authorities' reserves. AEF is central Government revenue funding that comprises formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and police grant) and specific grants inside AEF, i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. Revenue information is produced on a non-financial reporting standard (FRS) 17 basis.

Per head figures are based on Office for National Statistics' (ONS) mid-year population estimates for 2006.

Local Government: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely effect on *(a)* administrative and *(b)* other costs if Gloucestershire was to become a unitary authority area. [214225]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no estimate of the likely costs or savings that would be incurred if Gloucestershire was to become a unitary authority.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the composition of Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspector panels is when assessing *(a)* district authorities, *(b)* county councils, *(c)* Metropolitan authorities and *(d)* unitary authorities. [214183]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 1 July 2008:

Your question on the composition of Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspector panels when assessing district authorities, county councils, metropolitan authorities and unitary councils has been passed to me for reply.

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for all single tier and county councils comprises the assessment scores for use of resources, based upon the work of appointed auditors, annual service assessments and a corporate assessment element. These are brought together by the Audit Commission using a set of rules, to categorise councils according to their performance, which is described by a star rating (0-4 star).

For county councils, metropolitan councils and unitary councils, a corporate assessment is undertaken once every three years by an Audit Commission team comprising 6 people:

an Audit Commission team leader;

two Audit Commission inspectors one of these is also a member of the team carrying out the Joint Area Review of Children's Services led by OFSTED or CSCI, which is carried out at the same time as the corporate assessment;

two peers one is an elected member from a council, the other is normally a local government chief officer or equivalent; and

an administrative support officer.

CPA re-categorisation for district councils, from 2006, follows a two-stage approach.

Re-categorisation activity is only taken following an application for re-categorisation by a district council. An Audit Commission panel decides whether or not there is sufficient evidence for a potential change of category. This panel comprises two Audit Commission managers with no previous involvement at the council concerned, and a peer from a district council, either an officer or councillor. If the panel identifies that there is sufficient evidence of a potential category change, a corporate assessment is carried out to determine whether a category change is warranted.

For district council CPA, the corporate assessment team comprises 4 people:

an Audit Commission team leader;

an Audit Commission inspector;

a peer either a chief officer or an elected member from a district council; and

an administrative support officer.

For all types of council, the findings of the corporate assessment team are subject to further internal review and challenge before a draft report is sent to the council. This review is undertaken by a consistency panel of two senior Audit Commission managers and a peer, either an officer or councillor, who have had no previous involvement With the council concerned.

The text of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mayors

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had elected mayors at the latest date for which information is available. [214115]

John Healey: The following 12 local authorities in England have elected mayors.

Bedford Borough Council

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Hackney Borough Council

Hartlepool Borough Council

Lewisham London Borough Council

Mansfield District Council

Middlesbrough Council

Newham Council

North Tyneside Council

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Torbay Council

Watford Borough Council

The Greater London Authority also has a directly elected Mayor.

Regeneration: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on *(a)* the respective responsibilities of the Thames Gateway and the East of England Regional Assembly in respect of regeneration in Essex and *(b)* overlap in these responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [214422]

Caroline Flint: I have, to date, received no representations on the respective responsibilities of the East of England regional assembly and the Thames Gateway.

However, the Government have invited responses to the proposals set out in the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration to introduce integrated regional strategies and give the regional development agencies (RDAs) lead responsibility for developing them in partnership with local authorities and other regional stakeholders. This means regional assemblies, such as the East of England assembly, will not continue in their current form after 2010.

This consultation closed on 20 June 2008. Analysis of the responses received is still ongoing.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households occupying social housing were headed by a foreign national in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the number of such households in each of the last 10 years. [211157]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to section 2.1 of the Housing Report to the Migration Impacts Forum, published in January 2008, and available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/mif/papersandagendas/thirdmeeting/housingreport.pdf?view=Binary

Information prior to 2005-06 was not collected by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

7

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if she will make a statement. [210548]

Mr. Dhanda: I have deposited copies in English and Welsh of the Department's Welsh language scheme, and also our overall policy on translation, in the Library of the House. The Welsh language scheme was drawn up by our predecessor Department but remains in force in Communities and Local Government. Information on the level of demand for services in the Welsh language provided by the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally, hence the costs of gathering this information would be disproportionate.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Export Controls

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether military equipment export licences were granted to British companies for the sale of cryptography equipment and software to Zimbabwe in 2007. [214777]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been a military arms embargo against Zimbabwe since 2000. The Government did not therefore grant any licences for export to Zimbabwe of military cryptography equipment or software in 2007.

The Government publish detailed information on export and trade control licences issued, refused and revoked, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The quarterly reports covering 2007 are available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

The 2007 annual report is expected to be published shortly.

Previous annual reports, since 1997, are available from the House of Commons Library, and all the annual reports from 2003 onwards, plus the quarterly reports covering 2007, are available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website via the link above.

Carbon Sequestration: International Cooperation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department has provided for the construction of carbon capture and storage demonstration plants; what discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on construction of such plants in other G8 countries; and if he will seek to include the subject on the agenda of the forthcoming G8 summit in Japan. [214120]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are providing £2.2 million to support the demonstration of a 40MW oxyfuel combustion system. The Government are also committed to supporting one of the world's first commercial-scale demonstrations of the full chain of carbon capture and storage technology. The competition to select the project was launched in November 2007 and is ongoing.

Carbon capture and storage was discussed at the G8 Energy Ministers meeting on 8 June. The Joint Statement issued by G8 Energy Ministers states in paragraph 6:

> "We strongly support the recommendation that 20 large-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects need to be launched globally by 2010, taking into account varying national circumstances with a view to supporting technology development and cost reduction for the beginning of broad deployment of carbon capture and storage by 2020."

A copy of the Joint Statement, which contains the full text on carbon capture and storage, has already been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

At the G8 summit in July, discussions on carbon capture and storage will be held under the climate change agenda item.

Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the economic prospects for the construction industry over the next 12 months. [211934]

Malcolm Wicks: Construction industry output in Great Britain increased by 2.4 per cent. in 2007 (Office for National Statistics), though levels of activity in the construction sector are currently falling, chiefly in the new housing sector.

Updated statistics released by the Office for National Statistics on 17 June indicate that the total volume of construction output for the 12 months to the first quarter of 2008 rose by 2 per cent. compared with the previous 12-month period. Output of new work rose by 4 per cent. over the same period, driven by increases in public housing, infrastructure and private commercial new work. However, new private housing work was down by 5 per cent. over the same period. Repair and maintenance work rose by 1 per cent. over the same period. Output in the first quarter of 2008 was unchanged compared with the fourth quarter of 2007 in volume terms.

As has been widely reported, a number of large house builders are experiencing difficulties, primarily a result of the slow down in the housing sector. Consequently, market commentators have revised their forecasts for the entire construction sector and now consider that output will fall by 1.3 per cent.[1] during 2008.

Although the housing sector appears likely to face difficult prospects for some time, the outlook for the wider sector is more promising, with work on-going in the infrastructure, health and education sectors. In addition, work is set to commence this year on various Olympic related projects and, looking a little further ahead, a number of large infrastructure and transport projects, such as Crossrail and Thameslink are at the planning stage.

[1] Construction Products Association forecast Update 17 June 2008.

Crime: Computers

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department has issued to businesses to tackle and prevent online fraud. [212696]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government take this form of crime seriously and a variety of advice and information is available to businesses to help them protect themselves from online fraud.

BERR (alongside the Cabinet Office, the Home Office and the Serious Organised Crime Agency and a number of private sector organisations) is a sponsor of Get Safe Online (www.getsafeonline.org) the major public-private sector initiative designed to help consumers and small business protect themselves online. The website, which has a section dedicated to the steps businesses can take to protect themselves from online fraud, is seen as a key vehicle in promoting messages about this type of issue.

Primary responsibility for e-crime rests with the Home Office which has created, and maintains, the 'e-tailing mini site', which forms part of the crime reduction website (http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/). The mini site provides information to help both businesses and consumers protect themselves specifically when using the internet. Government are considering how we take an overall approach to issues such as electronic fraud, and will be discussing these with a number of law enforcement agencies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [213679]

Mr. Thomas: On furnishings, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 327W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

This Department has not procured any art or new vehicles in any of the last three years.

Electricity: Prices

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what factors determine the national price of electricity; and what estimate he has made of changes in the national price of electricity at times of peak demand in the latest period for which figures are available. [214594]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Electricity suppliers and traders may buy their power from generators by signing bilateral contracts at prices agreed between themselves on a commercial basis, or through trading on power exchanges. At any one time the spot wholesale price of electricity has to settle at the level which is sufficient to balance supply and demand.

If the price is not high enough, the plant with the highest operating cost will be unable to cover its costs and [illegible] will not generate, leaving the market short of supply. If it is too high, more plant will want to provide electricity than is needed, leading to an excess of supply over demand.

Prices paid by retail consumers also include additional costs incurred by their suppliers and are smoothed out so that most consumers are not exposed to hourly fluctuations in the wholesale price.

The operating costs of the marginal plants tend to be determined primarily (but not exclusively) by their fuel costs (i.e., cost of the natural gas, coal or oil they burn to generate each kWh of electricity) and the cost of any EU ETS allowances they need to purchase in order to cover the cost of their carbon emissions.

Details of wholesale electricity prices are available at

http://www.bmreports.com//bwx_reporting.htm

Broadly, the wholesale price of electricity at peak periods this month has been about twice the average price for the day.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of changes in the unit price of electricity during periods of peak demand across the UK. [214595]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Details of historic wholesale electricity prices are available at:

http://www.bmreports.com/bwx_reporting.htm

Broadly, the wholesale price of electricity at peak periods in recent weeks has been about twice the average price for the day, reflecting the higher marginal costs of those electricity generating plants which tend to run only at peak times.

Most consumers, however, pay the same per unit of electricity regardless of when it is consumed.

Energy Supply

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sources of energy supply which are normally on standby or low output are utilised during periods of peak national demand. [214454]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* This is a matter for generating plant owners, who take decisions as to which plant to operate on a day-to-day basis taking into account such factors as the prevailing supply-demand balance; prices for electricity, fuel and carbon allowances; the capability and state of repair of individual plants; and relevant environmental considerations, such as the limit on running hours imposed on some plants by the large combustion plants directive and local air quality restrictions.

As a general rule, however, oil-fired plants and open cycle gas turbines tend to run only at periods of peak demand or when the supply-demand balance is particularly tight, while pumped storage facilities, coal stations and closed cycle gas turbines are better suited to providing rapid adjustment to output in response to short-term increases in demand or reductions in supply. Because of their particular flexibility, open cycle gas turbines and some pumped storage facilities would usually be on standby until required.

Energy Supply: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with his counterparts in other EU member states on the security of energy supply. [214451]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK has taken, and will continue to take, a leading role in promoting an integrated energy security and climate change policy at European level. The spring European Council this year reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to enhancing energy security, in particular in the context of the European Commission's Second Strategic Energy Review later this year. France, which holds the EU presidency from 1 July, has also announced its intention to make energy security a priority. UK Ministers will continue to play an active role in these debates over coming months, including through bi-lateral contacts with other member states.

Energy: Grants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average funding per head in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland was on grants made by his Department for (i) insulation, (ii) renewable micro-generation and (iii) other energy efficiency measures in the latest period for which figures are available. [212589]

Malcolm Wicks: The average grant paid to applicants through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household stream is shown as follows:

	Grants paid to end of May 2008		
	Total number	*Total value (£)*	*Average value (£)*
United Kingdom	4,544	7,061,194.67	1,553.96
Scotland	74	266,369.53	3,599.59
Wales	411	496,946.21	1,209.11
Northern Ireland	36	105,144.29	2,920.67
England	4,023	6,192,734.64	1,539.33

The Department does not provide grants for insulation or other energy efficiency measures, as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has the lead responsibility for energy efficiency policy.

Fuel Poverty

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in each local authority area. [214415]

Malcolm Wicks: The most recent year for which local authority level estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

The following table shows estimated fuel poverty levels for each local authority in England in 2003:

	Number
North West	
Allerdale	2,700
Barrow in Furness	2,200
Blackburn with Darwen	3,900
Blackpool	4,400
Bolton	7,100
Burnley	2,700
Bury	4,700
Carlisle	2,900
Chester	3,100
Chorley	2,600
Congleton	2,200
Copeland	2,100
Crewe and Nantwich	3,000
Eden	1,500
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2,100
Fylde	2,000
Halton	3,200
Hyndburn	2,400
Knowsley	4,200
Lancaster	3,700
Liverpool	14,200
Macclesfield	3,700
Manchester	11,900
Oldham	5,700
Pendle	2,600
Preston	3,600
Ribble Valley	1,400
Rochdale	5,500
Rossendale	1,800
Salford	6,400
Sefton	8,000
South Lakeland	2,800
South Ribble	2,500
St. Helens	4,900
Stockport	7,300
Tameside	5,800
Trafford	5,500
Vale Royal	3,100
Warrington	4,800
West Lancashire	2,800
Wigan	8,300
Wirral	9,200
Wyre	2,900
Total	187,400
South East	
Adur	1,400
Aran	3,500
Ashford	2,500
Aylesbury Vale	3,600
Basingstoke and Deane	3,400
Bracknell Forest	2,200
Brighton and Hove	6,500
Canterbury	3,300
Cherwell	2,900
Chichester	2,600
Chiltern	1,900
Crawley	2,100
Dartford	2,000
Dover	2,900

	Number
East Hampshire	2,400
Eastbourne	2,400
Eastleigh	2,500
Elmbridge	2,700
Epsom and Ewell	1,400
Fareham	2,400
Gosport	1,900
Gravesham	2,300
Guildford	2,800
Hart	1,800
Hastings	2,500
Havant	2,800
Horsham	2,700
Isle of Wight	3,800
Lewes	2,200
Maidstone	3,300
Medway	6,200
Mid Sussex	2,800
Milton Keynes	4,700
Mole Valley	1,800
New Forest	4,000
Oxford	2,900
Portsmouth	5,200
Reading	3,200
Reigate and Banstead	2,700
Rother	2,300
Runnymede	1,700
Rushmoor	1,900
Sevenoaks	2,500
Shepway	2,600
Slough	2,300
South Bucks	1,300
South Oxfordshire	2,900
Southampton	5,600
Spelthorne	2,000
Surrey Heath	1,700
Swale	3,100
Tandridge	1,700
Test Valley	2,500
Thanet	3,700
Tonbridge and Mailing	2,400
Tunbridge Wells	2,500
Vale of White Horse	2,500
Waverley	2,600
Wealden	3,300
West Berkshire	3,100
West Oxfordshire	2,100
Winchester	2,400
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,900
Woking	1,900
Wokingham	3,000
Worthing	2,500
Wycombe	3,400
Total	186,500
South West	
Bath and North East Somerset	4,100
Bournemouth	4,400
Bristol City of	10,200
Caradon	2,200
Carrick	2,500
Cheltenham	2,800
Christchurch	1,100
Cotswold	2,100
East Devon	3,300
East Dorset	1,900
Exeter	2,900
Forest of Dean	2,200
Gloucester	2,900
Isles of Scilly	100
Kennet	1,800
Kerrier	2,700
Mendip	2,700
Mid Devon	1,900
North Cornwall	2,300
North Devon	2,400
North Dorset	1,500
North Somerset	4,700
North Wiltshire	3,000
Penwith	1,900
Plymouth	6,700
Poole	3,300
Purbeck	1,100
Restormel	2,700
Salisbury	2,800
Sedgemoor	2,900
South Gloucestershire	5,700
South Hams	2,100
South Somerset	4,000
Stroud	2,700
Swindon	4,400
Taunton Deane	2,700
Teignbridge	3,200
Tewkesbury	1,900
Torbay	3,700
Torridge	1,700
West Devon	1,400
West Dorset	2,500
West Somerset	1,000
West Wiltshire	3,000
Weymouth and Portland	1,700
Total	128,900
West Midlands	
Birmingham	26,500
Bridgnorth	1,400
Bromsgrove	2,100
Cannock Chase	2,300
Coventry	7,800
Dudley	7,900
East Staffordshire	2,900
Herefordshire County of	5,000
Lichfield	2,300
Malvern Hills	1,900
Newcastle under Lyme	3,300
North Shropshire	1,600
North Warwickshire	1,600
Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,100
Oswestry	1,100
Redditch	1,900
Rugby	2,200
Sandwell	7,900

	Number
Shrewsbury and Atcham	2,500
Solihull	4,600
South Shropshire	1,200
South Staffordshire	2,500
Stafford	3,100
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,500
Stoke on Trent	7,100
Stratford on Avon	2,800
Tamworth	1,800
Telford and Wrekin	4,100
Walsall	6,700
Warwick	3,000
Wolverhampton	6,600
Worcester	2,400
Wychavon	2,800
Wyre Forest	2,500
Total	138,900
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Barnsley	6,300
Bradford	12,400
Calderdale	5,400
Craven	1,500
Doncaster	8,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	8,500
Hambleton	2,200
Harrogate	3,800
Kingston upon Hull City of	7,300
Kirklees	10,700
Leeds	19,300
North East Lincolnshire	4,600
North Lincolnshire	4,300
Richmondshire	1,200
Rotherham	6,700
Ryedale	1,500
Scarborough	3,100
Selby	1,900
Sheffield	13,900
Wakefield	8,700
York	4,600
Total	136,000
East Midlands	
Amber Valley	3,300
Ashfield	3,200
Bassetlaw	3,000
Blaby	2,100
Bolsover	2,100
Boston	1,600
Broxtowe	2,900
Charnwood	3,800
Chesterfield	2,800
Corby	1,400
Daventry	1,700
Derby	6,100
Derbyshire Dales	1,900
East Lindsey	3,900
East Northamptonshire	2,000
Erewash	3,000
Gedling	2,900
Harborough	1,800
High Peak	2,300
Hinckley and Bosworth	2,500
Kettering	2,200
Leicester	7,500
Lincoln	2,400
Mansfield	2,800
Melton	1,300
Newark and Sherwood	2,900
North East Derbyshire	2,500
North Kesteven	2,500
North West Leicestershire	2,300
Northampton	5,000
Nottingham	7,800
Oadby and Wigston	1,300
Rushcliffe	2,600
Rutland	900
South Derbyshire	2,100
South Holland	2,200
South Kesteven	3,300
South Northamptonshire	1,900
Wellingborough	1,900
West Lindsey	2,300
Total	111,900
Eastern England	
Babergh	2,200
Basildon	4,000
Bedford	3,600
Braintree	3,200
Breckland	3,300
Luton	4,400
Maldon	1,400
Mid Bedfordshire	2,800
Mid Suffolk	2,300
North Hertfordshire	2,700
Brentwood	1,600
Broadland	3,000
Broxbourne	1,800
Cambridge	2,400
Castle Point	2,000
Chelmsford	3,600
Colchester	3,800
Dacorum	3,000
East Cambridgeshire	1,800
East Hertfordshire	2,800
Epping Forest	2,700
Fenland	2,300
Forest Heath	1,500
Great Yarmouth	2,700
Harlow	1,800
Hertsmere	1,900
Huntingdonshire	3,700
Ipswich	3,300
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	3,900
North Norfolk	2,900
Norwich	3,500
Peterborough	4,100
Rochford	1,800
South Bedfordshire	2,500
South Cambridgeshire	2,900
South Norfolk	2,900

	Number
Southend on Sea	4,400
St. Albans	2,700
St. Edmundsbury	2,500
Stevenage	1,900
Suffolk Coastal	3,100
Tendring	3,900
Three Rivers	1,700
Thurrock	3,400
Uttlesford	1,600
Watford	1,600
Waveney	3,300
Welwyn Hatfield	2,100
Total	131,900
London	
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
Total	162,200
North East	
Alnwick	900
Berwick upon Tweed	800
Blyth Valley	2,200
Castle Morpeth	1,200
Chester le Street	1,500
Darlington	2,800
Derwentside	2,500
Durham	2,200
Easington	2,700
Gateshead	5,600
Hartlepool	2,600
Middlesbrough	3,800
Newcastle upon Tyne	7,300
North Tyneside	5,400
Redcar and Cleveland	3,800
Sedgefield	2,500
South Tyneside	4,300
Stockton on Tees	4,700
Sunderland	7,700
Teesdale	800
Tynedale	1,600
Wansbeck	1,800
Wear Valley	1,900
Total	70,400

Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which six energy companies provided the largest number of social tariffs to pensioners in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [213322]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem published a review of suppliers' voluntary initiatives in August 2007 and updated the figures in October 2007. Spending covered in these reports includes that on social tariffs, contributions to trust funds and charities and rebates.

Although the reports make some estimates of likely savings per customer receiving each of a range of benefits, they are not all split by pensioner or non-pensioner household.

Ofgem will continue to monitor supplier spending in this area and recently sought views on their proposed monitoring framework for 2008-11:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=240&refer=SUSTAINABILITY/SOCACTION/SUPPLIERS/CSR.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research into the reasons why costs for kerosene have risen more rapidly than those for gas and electricity over the last 12 months. [212852]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: Kerosene is an oil product which means the price of kerosene is directly linked to the cost of crude oil. Crude oil prices have increased by over 80 per cent. in the last 12 months (average May 2007—average May 2008) and these increases have fed through to the price of kerosene. Crude oil prices also impact on the wholesale costs of gas and therefore electricity but over a longer time period of around six months. There are even longer lead-times between changes in wholesale gas and electricity and domestic retail prices. These factors fully explain the recent trends in prices and I see no need for further research into the issue.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of increases in fuel oil prices on the domestic heating bills of those with no access to mains gas supplies. [212853]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: Fuel oil prices have been increasing due to increases in crude oil prices. According to the retail price index for heating oils, which includes bottled gas and domestic heating oils, prices have increased by around 70 per cent. between May 2007 and May 2008. However, the exact effect on households' heating bills will depend on the levels of consumption of the individual household.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates since 1 May 1997 his Department has re-evaluated its oil price projections for 2020; and what the projected figure was on each date. [213489]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: The following table shows assumptions published by BERR for the crude oil price in dollars per barrel, listed in terms of 2007 prices for consistency. Prior to 2000 fossil fuel prices were projected on a less frequent basis so a 1995 assumption is provided.

Projections of the oil price are made for the purpose of providing assumptions to be used in modelling work within the Department, with the focus on long-term sustainable prices and a range of plausible outcomes. The price assumptions are consistent with similar forecasts made at the time. The current projections are compiled following a Call for Evidence and reflect feedback from stakeholders. BERR has committed to updating these projections roughly twice a year.

Table—Oil price projections for 2020 ($/barrel) in low, central and high scenarios. For comparison all figures have been inflated to 2007prices using the ONS GDP deflator.

Publication and date assumption made	*Low*	*Central*	*High*
Energy Paper 65 (March 1995)	24.3		56.8
Energy Paper 68 (November 2000)	12.2		24.4
EU Emissions Trading scheme—National allocation Plan (November 2004)		30.7	
Updated Fossil Fuel	27.1	37.9	48.7
Price Assumptions (August 2005)			
Energy Review (July 2006)	21.2	47.7	76.3
Energy White Paper (May 2007)	25.8	54.7	82.5
Updated Fossil Fuel Price Assumptions (March 2008)	45.0	70.0	95.0 (High Scenario) 150.0 (High-High scenario)

National Emergency Plan for Fuel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under what circumstances the National Emergency Plan for Fuel will be activated; and if he will make a statement. [213462]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F) enables the Government to select and use appropriate emergency response tools to manage any significant disruption to fuel supplies in the UK market. These response tools may be used to alleviate disruptions in various parts of the downstream oil supply chain depending on the nature and scale of a specific incident. These tools range from demand calming measures, to the designation of selected filling stations for use by the emergency services and other essential users, and the invoking of a maximum purchase scheme for all purchases of fuel from garage forecourts.

Natural Gas: Disconnections

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of gas customers on pre-payment tariffs who have self-disconnected over the last 12 months. [215042]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has no information about the behaviour of individual customers, and cannot, therefore, provide an estimate of levels of self-disconnection.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Foreign Workers

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new staff members recruited in 2008 by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) to support additional work required to carry out the generic design assessment for new nuclear reactors are foreign nationals; what vetting and visa procedures apply to the recruits; and whether the NII is able to recover the costs of engaging them from the reactor vendors. [213083]

Malcolm Wicks: As a result of the recruitment campaign for Nuclear Inspectors that was launched in December 2007 and closed in February 2008, none of the recruits were foreign nationals.

Whether an applicant may require a visa to attend an interview for a job in the UK is unconnected with the specific job application and is a matter for decision by the UK Border Agency, or ultimately the Home Office. Only when a candidate has received a job offer are they subjected to vetting procedures appropriate for UK public bodies. NII inspectors will normally be required to obtain national security vetting clearance to the security check level.

Costs incurred in the recruitment process are recoverable from industry.

Oil: Reserves

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent estimate he has made of the size of the UK's North Sea oil reserves; [214528]

(2) what the UK's proven oil reserves were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by oil field; [214529]

(3) how frequently individual oil companies report their proven oil reserves to the Government; and what data they report. [214530]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department's latest published estimates show that as at the end of 2006 reserves of UK oil amounted to between 479 million tonnes (proven reserves) and 1,254 million tonnes (proven, probable and possible reserves), with a central estimate of around 776 million tonnes (proven and probable reserves). Full details including definitions of the proven, probable and possible reserve classification are on BERR's oil and gas website at:

https://www.og.berr.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/reserves_index.htm.

Updated estimates for reserves as at the end of 2007 are due to be published shortly.

We do not disclose reserves information for individual oil fields as this information is provided to the Department by the operators of each field on a basis of commercial confidentiality. However, overall proven UK oil reserves in each of the last 10 years were estimated as follows:

At year end	*Estimated proven[1] oil reserves (million tonnes)*
1997	690
1998	685
1999	665
2000	630
2001	605
2002	595
2003	571
2004	533
2005	516
2006	479

[1] Reserves which on the available evidence are virtually certain to be technically and commercially producible, i.e. have a better than 90 per cent. chance of being produced.

Within the licensing arrangements, all operators in the UK report to the Department at least annually on a range of data including current field production rates and estimates of proven, probable and possible reserves in the fields they operate, as well as any changes to reservoir performance or field activities which are likely to have an effect on reserves.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the likely effects on small local businesses have been considered in the event of Post Office Ltd. losing the bid for the Post Office card account. [212793]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently managing a competitive tender process for the successor product to the Post Office card account and an announcement is expected later in the year. In advance of the procurement decision being announced, it would not be appropriate for the Government to speculate on the consequences should any individual bidder fail to secure the contract.

The Government remain committed to allowing people to access their pension and benefit in cash at the post office if they choose to do so, and there are around 25 accounts which make that possible still generating income for Post Office Ltd. and sub-postmasters.

Post Offices: Robbery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many robberies there were of *(a)* post offices and *(b)* post office vehicles in each of the last five years. [214599]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: I have asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Government plan to spend on renewable energy over the next 10 years. [214200]

Malcolm Wicks: The evolving nature of the challenges of climate change and security of supply mean that it is not possible to predict how the detail of our policy response and its associated level of financial support might need to change in the future. However, as demonstrated by the comprehensive package of measures put forward in a consultation on the 'UK Renewable Energy Strategy', published on 26 June, the Government are fully committed to increasing the deployment of renewable energy as part of decarbonising our energy mix, and reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The consultation seeks to build on a great deal of support already available to the renewables sector through programmes such as those to support new and emerging technologies; R&D projects; or, schemes aimed at removing barriers, such as those in planning or the supply chain.

Public sector funding for low carbon energy technology innovation is being delivered through the organisations listed as follows. These bodies all recognise low carbon energy technologies, including renewables, as a priority, and work closely together to ensure that funding activities are complementary and together effectively supports a portfolio of technologies. DIUS Science and Innovation Budget Investments through the Research Councils, Technology Strategy Board and, more recently with the establishment of the Energy Technologies Institute.

Research Council investments on energy related basic, strategic and applied research and postgraduate training will approach £300 million during this CSR period. The Technology Strategy Board currently has a portfolio of collaborative projects on emerging low carbon energy technologies worth £90 million and is expanding its portfolio in areas relating to the low carbon agenda through a range of initiatives including Innovation Platforms. The Energy Technologies Institute will invest up to £110 million per year in development of low carbon energy technologies and solutions over at least the next 10 years.

BERR and DEFRA provide capital grant and other funding for low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which has a budget of £400 million for this CSR period. This includes support for the Carbon Trust innovation portfolio.

The Regional Development Agency, Devolved Administrations and European Union also provide support for research into low carbon energy activities among other activities.

The Government also provide support for renewables through market drivers such as the RO and this is estimated to be worth around a billion pounds a year by 2010.

Renewable Energy: International Cooperation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Morley and

Rothwell (Colin Challen) of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 641-2W, on renewable energy: international co-operation, if he will *(a)* make a place in the Library and *(b)* create a section on his departmental website for the agendas, minutes and documents discussed at the planned working group meetings on the International Renewable Energy Agency. [213019]

Malcolm Wicks: The Federal Government of Germany is leading the process to establish an international renewable energy agency (IRENA) and has set up a website, www.irena.org, which contains information on the preparatory conference in April 2008.

We expect the Federal Government of Germany to put information on the forthcoming working groups' meetings on this website in due course.

We shall provide a link on the departmental website to the IRENA website.

Retirement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were required to retire against their wishes in the last 12 months. [213592]

Mr. McFadden: There is no current reliable data on the number of people who are forced to retire against their wishes. The Government have committed to conduct a review of the default retirement age in 2011 and this will give us an opportunity to assemble further evidence on retirement ages and assess properly the effectiveness and impact of the regulations. The age regulations that came into force on 1 October 2006 are a significant step in helping older people in the employment market. Although they provide for a default retirement age of 65, we recognise that many older workers would remain in work past their normal retirement age if given the opportunity and for the first time employees have a statutory right to request to do so.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when the tender process for the strategic environment assessment of Severn tidal projects was *(a)* first advertised and *(b)* closed; [214762]

(2) whether the tender for the strategic environment assessment of the Severn tidal project was held under an Office of Government Commerce term contract; [214764]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the River Severn: tidal power, if he will place in the Library a copy of Parsons Brinckerhoff's statement of independence; [214779]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the River Severn: tidal power, what assessment he has made of the *(a)* rights and *(b)* financial interests that Parsons Brinckerhoff have had in River Severn tidal power projects, including the Shoots Barrage; and if he will make a statement. [214780]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The invitation to tender for the provision of a managed service for a strategic environmental assessment of proposals for tidal power development in the Severn estuary was issued on 22 January 2008. The closing date for tenders was 22 February 2008.

The tender process was carried out using the Office of Government Commerce's 'Catalyst' Framework Agreement for Environmental Advice, Support and Delivery Services, and the contract issued to the successful consortium used the Office of Government Commerce's Standard Terms and Conditions.

I am happy to place in the Library a copy of the relevant page of Parsons Brinckerhoff's tender, emphasising their independence and lack of financial interest in the success of any tidal power scheme.

As stated in my answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 642W, the statements of independence and absence of financial interests made by Parsons Brinckerhoff were probed at interview and were answered to our satisfaction. As also stated in my answer, we also sought, and received, written assurances from Parsons Brinckerhoff agreeing to assign any rights they might hold in respect of the pro bono work they did on the Shoots barrage to the Secretary of State on a royalty-free basis, and to waive any moral rights they might have in respect of such work. A copy of their letter will also be placed in the Library

Royal Mail: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last discussed the future of the mail sorting office in Crewe with Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [214475]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers are aware of Royal Mail's review of its North West mail centres but not discussed individual mail centres with the company. This review is an operational matter for the company.

Severn Barrage: Environment Protection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with the Anglers' Conservation Association, the National Trust, the RSPB, the Salmon and Trout Association, the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and WWF UK on the implications for the environment and wildlife of proposals to build a Severn Barrage. [213888]

Malcolm Wicks: We are conducting a two year feasibility study to inform whether and on what terms a tidal range power project in the Severn estuary could be supported by the Government. A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) will be produced as part of the study to ensure a detailed understanding of the Estuary's environmental resource, recognising the nature conservation significance of the estuary. The SEA Steering Group is made up of representatives from a wide group of stakeholders including statutory consultees, business and environmental NGOs including RSPB, the Wildfowl Wetland Trust (WWT) and WWF. In addition the RSPB, the WWT, the Anglers' Conservation Association and the Salmon and Trout Association are participating in the relevant SEA technical workshops. This provides an excellent forum for detailed discussions on the potential impacts of building a tidal power project in the Severn estuary. I am happy to meet with key stakeholders of the feasibility study.

Wind Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the Crown Estate Round 3 offshore windfarm development to the UK's share of the EU target of 20 per cent. renewable energy by 2020. [211873]

Malcolm Wicks: On 26 June 2008 Government issued a consultation document asking what more we could do to increase renewable energy use to meet the UK share of the EU 2020 target. In the consultation document, we have set out our assessment of the contribution that could be made by offshore wind in the UK.

Following our consultation, we will publish a final Renewable Energy Strategy in spring 2009 once the UK's share of the EU target is agreed

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential electricity output of the Crown Estate Round 3 offshore windfarm development. [211874]

Malcolm Wicks: In December 2007, I announced the commencement of our draft plan for up to a further 25 GW of offshore wind development, in addition to the 8 GW already planned. If built, this could potentially provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of every home in the UK. We are in the process of completing a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on the feasibility of achieving up to 25 GW of offshore wind. We anticipate being in a position to be able to make an informed decision next year.

In parallel to the BERR SEA process, on the 4 June of this year the Crown Estate announced an offshore leasing programme to deliver up to 25 GW. Potential developers are to be invited to submit tenders to the Crown Estate this year. Following the SEA and the Government's decision on how much offshore wind development is acceptable in UK waters, the Crown Estate will then be in a position to allocate zones for development.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by her in the last six months. [201769]

Barbara Follett: For the six month period between November 2007 and April 2008, it took 10 days on average to answer written parliamentary questions directed to the Ministers for Women and Equality.

Flexible Working

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government has undertaken with employers to address the balance of work and family commitments through the introduction of flexible working hours. [204168]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 May 2008]*: Since April 2003 employees with disabled children, or children under the age of six, have had the right to ask their employers for flexible working arrangements. Since April 2007, carers of adults also have the right to ask their employers for flexible working arrangements. On 6 November 2007, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will extend the right to request to parents of older children. He asked Imelda Walsh, HR Director of J. Sainsbury plc, to conduct a review of the question of where the age cut-off age should be set. Ms Walsh will make recommendations to the Secretary of State in the spring of 2008.

Public Bodies: Procurement

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the ability of public bodies to bring procurement back in house because of equality issues when it has been contracted out. [202494]

Barbara Follett: Where a public function has been contracted out, the public sector equality duties still apply and these obligations, where relevant to the procurement, need to be passed on to the contractor.

Whether deficient equality practices are grounds for termination can only be decided case-by-case.

The EU procurement rules allow for bidders to be excluded from future tendering opportunities if they have been found culpable of grave professional misconduct.

Sexual Harassment

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many claims by women for *(a)* sexual harassment and (ii) sexual discrimination in the (i) public sector and (ii) private sector were accepted for hearing by employment tribunals in each year since 1997; and in how many such cases the tribunal found in favour of the claimant. [201910]

Barbara Follett: The following table details the number of sex discrimination cases brought to tribunal in all the years for which figures are available and, in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the claimant. It is not possible to give separate figures on sexual harassment cases because these are recorded under the sex discrimination jurisdiction. Nor is it possible to say whether cases relate to the public or private sector as this information is not collected. Further explanation is provided in the notes.

Sex discrimination cases 1998 to 2007

	Jurisdictions accepted	*Total disposals*	*Total disposals at hearings*	*Number of hearings successful for the claimant/success rate as a percentage of accepted jurisdictions* — *Number*	*Percentage*
1998-99	10,157				
1999-2000	7,801	3,809	866	233	3
2000-01	[5]25,940	5,857	1,258	417	1.6
2001-02	15,703	13,268	1,136	368	2.3
2002-03	11,001	9,249	1,121	363	3.2
2003-04	17,722	10,254	882	306	1.7
2004-05	11,726	16,211	1,076	299	2.5
2005-06	14,250	24,217	4,846	4,068	28.5
2006-07	28,153	18,909	1,253	463	1.6

Signifies data not held

Includes cases where sex discrimination is not the main jurisdiction. A claim may be brought under more than one jurisdiction or subsequently amended or clarified in the course of proceedings.

This includes cases where there was an ACAS conciliated settlement, withdrawn cases, default judgments and cases disposed of otherwise

The disposal figures for 1999-2000 includes cases where sex discrimination was the main jurisdiction cited

[5] This includes approximately 12,000 part time worker pension cases.

Note:

Data taken from annual reports 1999-2000 to 2006-07

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits: Armed Forces

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many service personnel from each service are in receipt of council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement. [214917]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department's executive agencies have spent on foreign travel in each of the last five years, broken down by destination. [211144]

Mrs. McGuire: The information that is available is provided in the following table. Details of foreign travel expenditure by DWP Executive agencies is available only for the last financial year and cannot be broken down by destination. However, the figures provided include travel within the EU.

DWP Executive agency expenditure on foreign travel, April 2007 to March 2008

	£
Disabilities and Carers Service	12,968
Child Support Agency	16,583
Pension Service	61,694
Jobcentre Plus	55,419

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215377]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table provides details of expenditure on external consultants engaged by DWP in each of the last five years to 2007-08.

DWP expenditure on external consultancy

	£ million, including VAT
2003-04	306.72
2004-05	168.37
2005-06	130.29
2006-07	162.62
2007-08	76.43

Equality 2025

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget was for Equality 2025 in each of the last two years. [215344]

Mrs. McGuire: Equality 2025 expenditure in each of the last two financial years was as follows:

	£
2006-07	353,974
2007-08	531,085

Fuel Poverty: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pensioners aged (i) 60 to 79 and (ii) over 80 years old unable to pay their full fuel bill in Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [213319]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available.

However, the Government are concerned about the impact of rising energy prices on pensioners. That is why the Department for Work and Pensions is seeking powers in the Pensions Bill to allow it to share Government data on the poorest pensioners with the energy suppliers so that they can identify pensioners who would benefit from their social programmes, including social tariffs.

In addition the Government announced in this year's Budget a one off additional payment to the winter fuel payment of £100 for the over 80s and £50 for the over 60s for this winter.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district in the UK for the payment of discretionary housing payments in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [214922]

(2) how the amount allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district for the payment of discretionary housing payments is calculated; and if he will make a statement; [214923]

(3) how much of the money allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district in the UK to pay discretionary housing payments was unspent in each year since it was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [214924]

(4) whether the calculation of the amount allocated to Jobcentre Plus districts for the payment of *(a)* exceptional hardship payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments takes account of average rental prices (i) nationally and (ii) in the relevant Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement; [214925]

(5) how much of the money allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district to pay *(a)* exceptional hardship payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments was unspent in each year between 1991 and 2001; and if he will make a statement. [214926]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Discretionary housing payments were introduced in 2001 and replaced exceptional hardship payments and exceptional circumstances payments. Discretionary housing payments are free-standing payments made at the discretion of local authorities.

Incapacity Benefit: Birkenhead

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 974W, to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), on social security benefits, how many working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in each ward of Birkenhead parliamentary constituency initiated their claim *(a)* before and *(b)* in or after 1997. [215347]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of working age incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance claimants in the Birkenhead parliamentary constituency by ward and duration of claim as at November 2007

Ward	*All*	*Under 10 years*	*10 years and over*
All wards	7,210	4,545	2,660
Bidston	1,170	735	435
Birkenhead	1,925	1,240	685
Claughton	875	520	355
Egerton	1,120	675	445
Oxton	755	465	290
Tranmere	1,360	910	450

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to protect the confidentiality of claimants.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 22W, on income support: disabled, how many people claiming income support with disability premium are classed as incapacity benefit claimants because their national insurance contributions are paid by incapacity benefit. [215343]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at November 2007, there were 1,039,210 income support claimants with a disability premium who were also claiming incapacity benefits. Of these, 680,190 were in receipt of national insurance credits only.

Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average level of pay of those moving off benefits into 100 per cent. commission jobs in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [215348]

Mr. Plaskitt: I will let my right hon. Friend have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213707]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213708]

Mrs. McGuire: Land Securities Trillium provides fully serviced accommodation to the Department under a PFI contract. Timber and timber products (including furniture) for the estate are provided as part of this contract. It is Land Securities Trillium's policy to procure only legally logged and sustainable timber. The supply chain (including independent certification) for timber has been identified, and plans are in place to move towards using only Forestry Stewardship Council certified timber. Information on the volume or cost of timber or timber products, however, is not currently collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department and Land Securities Trillium have been working closely with the Centre of Expertise for Procurement of Timber to help in the development of the FLEGT system.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary for daycare managers in *(a)* maintained nurseries, *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(c)* Sure Start children's centres was in each year for which figures are available. [214395]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the pay of staff working in childcare and early years providers. The average hourly pay for senior managers of full day care providers in 2006, by ownership of the provision is shown in Table 1. Data for previous years are not available in the format requested.

	£ Mean hourly pay
All full day care providers	9.29
Private	8.81
Voluntary	8.95
Local Authority	13.87
School/college	12.94
Other	10.44

Note:
Excludes refusals or 'don't know' responses.

In 2006, the average hourly pay for senior managers of full day care provision in Sure Start children's centres was £9.30. Data are not available for previous years. Children's Centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of staff vacancies in (*a*) maintained nurseries, (*b*) private, voluntary and independent nurseries and (*c*) Sure Start children's centres was in each year for which figures are available. [214397]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on recruitment and staff vacancies in childcare and early years providers. Table 1 shows the proportion of full day care providers that were trying to recruit for vacancies in 2006, by type of staff and ownership of the provision. Data for previous years are not available in the format requested.

Table 1: Proportion of full day care providers trying to recruit for vacancies by staff type and ownership 2006

Percentage

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*School/ college*	*Other*
Senior managers					
None	86	88	68	70	73
1 vacancy	13	12	32	17	27
2 vacancies	<1	0	0	4	0
3 or more vacancies	1	0	0	0	0
Supervisory staff					
None	42	49	17	43	81
1 vacancy	44	46	36	48	10
2 vacancies	10	5	13	5	9
3 or more vacancies	1	0	14	4	0
Other paid staff					
None	51	43	61	53	35
1 vacancy	34	42	14	35	48
2 vacancies	11	13	15	4	9
3 or more vacancies	4	1	10	4	8

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to 'don't know' responses or rounding.

The number of full day care providers in children's centres who were trying to recruit staff was too low for analysis to be carried out.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surveys the Government have conducted to assess the state of the market for child care (*a*) since 1997 and (*b*) between May 2007 and May 2008. [214815]

Beverley Hughes: The following surveys have been conducted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to assess the state of the market for child care:

> The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The first survey in this series was run in 1998, with further surveys in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007. The 2008 survey is currently being conducted.
>
> The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents. Surveys were run in 2004 and 2007. The 2008 survey is currently being conducted.
>
> The Evaluation of the Extended Flexible Entitlement for three and four Year Olds Pathfinder project included two surveys of parents, in September 2007 and May to June 2008; a survey of child care providers was also carried out in May to June 2008.
>
> Two Extended Services in Schools surveys have been carried out, in 2005 and 2006. In addition, an Extended Schools Schools Survey and an Extended Schools: Pupils and Parents Survey are currently being conducted.
>
> The Parents' Demand for Childcare Survey was conducted in 1999 and 2001.
>
> The Survey of Parents of Three and Four Year Old Children and their use of Early Years Services was run annually, with six surveys conducted between 1997 and 2002.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions runs the following household surveys which include questions about child care:

> The Families and Children Study, an annual survey which began in 1999; to date six surveys in the series have been completed.
>
> The Family Resources Survey, an annual survey which began in 1992; to date 13 surveys in the series have been completed.

Children's Centres

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Sure Start centre staff in helping children to develop language skills. [215807]

Beverley Hughes: From September 2008, all settings offering early years provision will be required to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. This supports all settings to plan activities and experiences that can help all children to make progress in their development and learning. It stresses the importance of practitioners being alert to the early signs of speech and language needs that could lead to later difficulties and provides a framework to enable early years practitioners to respond quickly and appropriately, involving other agencies as necessary.

Sure Start children's centres (SSCC) play a key role in the positive promotion of children's speech and language development and in identifying speech and language difficulties. We expect staff in children's centres to have a good understanding of how to promote children's language acquisition and identify speech and language difficulties as part of a centre-wide strategy and approach, supported by access to more specialist speech and language services which are jointly commissioned by PCTs and local authorities.

The national evaluation of Sure Start recognised that some centres were doing good work in relation to children's language development but it pointed out that more needed to be done to engage parents and children's centre staff in the importance of fostering language development in early learning experiences. This is why in our "Children's Centre Practice Guidance" (December 2006) we said that this should be a priority for SSCCs in developing their services and that all staff should have the skills and understanding required for high-quality, responsive interaction with children. We also said that SSCCs should provide parents with the information and support they need to maximise the development of their children's speech and language skills.

We are working with I CAN, the children's communication charity, to pilot their Early Talk training programme in 200 children's centres. This will train children's centre practitioners, alongside speech and language therapists, to develop their knowledge and understanding of language development, and the ways in which they can help support parents in developing communication skills within the home.

Children's Centres: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in Milton Keynes; how many are planned to be opened; and how much will be spent on such centres in the next 12 months. [214947]

Beverley Hughes: Milton Keynes currently has 13 designated Sure Start children's centres offering services to approximately nine thousand children under five and their families.

By 2010 all children under five and their families will have access to a children's centre. Milton Keynes has been given an indicative number of a further seven centres required to reach all under fives by 2010. The Department's delivery partner, Together for Children, is working with local authorities to help them plan the final phase of delivery and to confirm the number of additional centres needed to achieve universal coverage by 2010.

Milton Keynes's Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare grant for 2008/09 included allocations of £560,328 in capital and £3,321,586 in revenue funding for Sure Start children's centres. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate funding to children's centres within this grant.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in the London Borough of Enfield received education maintenance allowance in each of the last five years. [213802]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who have operational responsibility for the EMA for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to my right hon Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 27th June 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many people in the London Borough of Enfield received education maintenance allowance in each of the last five years".

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up for Enfield Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004/05	1,337
2005/06	2,639
2006/07	3,499
2007/08	[1]3,731

[1] To 31 May 2008.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Extended Schools

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what *(a)* numerical and *(b)* core offer targets his Department has set to increase the number of extended (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools; [214731]

(2) what progress he has made in increasing the numbers of extended schools; and if he will make a statement; [214732]

(3) what research to assess the provision of extended schools has been undertaken on behalf of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [214736]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's target is for all schools to provide access to extended services by 2010, with half of all primary and a third of secondary schools to be doing so by September 2008.

Nationally, over 10,500 schools are providing access to the core offer of extended services with many more schools delivering individual elements of the core offer. We are on track to meet our 2008 and 2010 targets.

We have begun a full evaluation of the impact of extended schools, beginning with a survey of pupils and parents. We also commissioned research by Manchester and Newcastle universities into the impact of full service extended schools. This was a three year evaluation that concluded with the publication of the final report on

25 June 2007 and showed that extended services helped to improve pupils attainment, engagement with learning, behaviour and attendance.

In January 2008 Ofsted published a report "how well are they doing?" on extended schools and children's centres. The report found that extended services had a positive impact on a child's personal development. This was particularly true for the most vulnerable children where services had transformed the lives of some these children and their families.

This year we commissioned Ipsos MORI to undertake a programme of research to explore the delivery of the core offer of extended school services in England. Their report will be published shortly.

Harrington Scheme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 972W, on the Harrington scheme, whether the funding for the scheme will be ring-fenced when it transfers to local authority control; and if he will make a statement. [213969]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's White Paper "Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver" laid out plans for transfer of funding for learning for 16 to 19-year-olds from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities from September 2010.

Under the new system local authorities will have the duty to secure and commission the most appropriate and high quality provision for the young people in their area, and the funding of programmes such as the Harrington scheme and all others will be considered in this context. In deciding what provision to commission in the future, local authorities will need to consider in particular learner demand and ensuring that young people have access to the best available provision.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people resident in the London Borough of Bexley entered full-time higher education in the academic years *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 1998-99 and *(c)* 2006-07. [215052]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009. Figures broken down by ward are not available.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Bexley local authority, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Bexley	
Academic year	*All Entrants*	*Of which, Full-time*
1997/98[2]	1,200	925
1998/99	1,450	955
1999/2000	1,395	885
2000/01	1,620	1,035
2001/02	1,745	1,120
2002/03	1,785	1,155
2003/04	1,955	1,230
2004/05[3]	2,035	1,300
2005/06	2,100	1,360
2006/07	2,125	1,420

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study.

[2] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.

[3] The increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be greater than in reality as a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Parents: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to assist those parents in treatment for drug addiction with parenting skills. [213973]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's 10 year Drug Strategy, 'Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities', launched at the end of February 2008, put a new focus on families, with parents being made a priority for effective drug treatment. This acknowledges the damage caused to whole families when a parent develops drug problems and highlights that an effective way to improve outcomes for children of substance misusing parents is by effectively treating the parent. Government and the National Treatment Agency (NTA) are working together to achieve this by improving the effectiveness of treatment for the whole treatment population, of which an estimated 46 per cent. are parents.

We are ensuring that drug misusing parents have ready access to this support with assessments taking account of the needs of children, and developing of guidance on the commissioning and delivery of "family friendly" treatment with closer links to maternity services. We are specifically working to improve the parenting skills of those parents with drug problems through developing the family intervention skills of drug workers, by including drug misuse within the scope of initiatives such as Family Pathfinders and Respect Parenting Practitioners, extending the Family Intervention Programme for an extra 500 families affected by drug misuse, and funding the Family Drug and Alcohol Court Pilots, all of which have a focus on improving parenting skills. We are evaluating the impact of these programmes.

Vocational Guidance: Females

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what occupations his Department defines as non-traditional occupations for girls when assessing the progress Connexions has made in encouraging girls into all occupations. [215854]

Beverley Hughes: This Department does not make a formal definition of non-traditional occupations, but this is an important issue. We know that there is a clear correlation between sectors experiencing skills shortages and sectors in which women are under-represented, for example in science, engineering and technology roles. That is why it is vital that we continue to invest in and improve Connexions and other local youth support services, to ensure that girls and all young people can access and benefit from impartial advice, support and encouragement to take the career path that most inspires them.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

ERASMUS

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which programmes are being funded in the UK under the EU Erasmus Mundus programme. [214159]

Bill Rammell: The European Commission is currently funding 43 UK higher education institutions to develop Masters-level courses under the Erasmus Mundus scheme. 13 of these institutions also receive funding to provide students with an opportunity to spend a period of time in a third-country (non-EU) partnership institution as part of the course. In addition, four institutions are taking part in projects designed to improve the profile and accessibility of European higher education. Details of all the participating institutions are as shown in the tables.

Erasmus Mundus makes an important contribution to the reform of higher education within the European Union. UK higher education institutions are among the most active in terms of developing proposals for Erasmus Mundus Masters courses.

Summary of UK involvement in Erasmus Mundus Programme

1. UK institutions involved in developing Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

Institution	*Erasmus Mundus Masters Course*	*Consortium Partners*
University of Reading	Network and E-Business Centred Computing	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki—Greece University Carlos III of Madrid—Spain Trinity College Dublin
University of Manchester	Environmental Science, Policy and Management	Lund University—Sweden Central European University—Hungary University of the Aegean—Greece
University of Southampton	Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation	International Institute for Geo-Information Science—the Netherlands Lund University—Sweden, Warsaw University—Poland
University College London[1] Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh[1]	International Health	Charite University Med School Berlin-DE University of Copenhagen—Denmark University of Bordeaux 2 Victor Segalen Royal Tropical Institute—the Netherlands Karolinska Institute—Sweden University of Bergen—Norway
University of Wales, Bangor[1]	Sustainable Tropical Forestry	University of Copenhagen—Denmark Dresden University of Technology—Germany Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Environmental Engineering—France University of Padova—Italy
University of Plymouth[1]	Water and Coastal Management	University of the Algarve—Portugal University of Bergen—Norway University of Cadiz—Spain
Roehampton University	Human Rights Practice	University of Tromso, Norway Goteborg University, Sweden
University of Hull[1]	Women's and Gender Studies	University of Granada—Spain, University of Oviedo—Spain University of Lodz—Poland University of Bologna—Italy

Summary of UK involvement in Erasmus Mundus Programme

1. UK institutions involved in developing Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

Institution	*Erasmus Mundus Masters Course*	*Consortium Partners*
		Utrecht University — the Netherlands Ljubljana Graduate School of Humanities — Slovenia Central European University — Hungary
University of York	Public Policy	Central European University — Hungary Barcelona Institute of International Studies — Spain Institute of Social Studies — the Netherlands
Heriot-Watt University	Strategic Project Management	Technical University of Milan — Italy Umea University — Sweden
Roehampton University	Special Educational Needs	Fontys University for Professional Education — the Netherlands Charles University of Prague — Czech Republic
Institute of Education, University of London	Lifelong Learning: Policy and Management	Danish University of Education — Denmark University of Deusto — Spain
University of Sheffield Queen's University Belfast	European Public Health Management and Engineering of Environment and Energy	National School of Public Health — France University of Copenhagen — Denmark University of Rennes — France Jagiellonian University — Poland Andalusian Schl of Pub. Health — Spain
Imperial College, London	Optics in Science and Technology	Institute of Optics Graduate School — France Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena — Germany University of Paris 11 — France Delft University of Technology — the Netherlands Warsaw University of technology — Poland
University of Wales, Swansea	Computational Mechanics	Technical University of Catalonia — Spain University of Stuttgart — Germany Ecote Centrale of Nantes — France
University of Wales, Bangor	Sustainable Forest and Nature Management	Royal Vet. and Ag. University — Denmark University of Gottingen — Germany University of Padova — Italy Swedish University of Agricultural Science — Sweden
City University London University of Southampton	Coastal and Marine Engineering and Management	Technical University of Delft — the Netherlands Technical University of Catalonia — Spain Norwegian University of Science and Technology — Norway
Heriot-Watt University	Vision and Robotics	University of Burgundy — France University of Girona — Spain
Cranfield University[1]	Space Science and technology	Lulea University of Technology — Sweden Czech Tech University in Prague — Czech Republic Helsinki University of Tech — Finland Julius-Maximilians University — Germany University of Toulouse 3 Paul Sabatier — France
Imperial College London	Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology	University of Pavia — Italy

Summary of UK involvement in Erasmus Mundus Programme

1 UK institutions involved in developing Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

Institution	*Erasmus Mundus Masters Course*	*Consortium Partners*
		University of Patras—Greece University of Grenoble I—France
University of St. Andrews[1]	Science in Photonics	Ghent University Free University of Brussels—Belgium
Heriot-Watt University[1] University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne[1]	Hydro-Informatics and Water Management	Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm—Sweden University of Nice Sophia Antipolis—France Brandenburg Tech University—Germany Budapest University of Technology and Economy Hungary Tech University of Catalonia—Spain
University of Edinburgh	Informatics	University of Trento—Italy RWTH University Aachen—Germany
Cranfield University	Aeronautics and Space Technology	University of Pisa—Italy Paris Graduate ENSAE-SUPAREO—France Tech University Munich—Germany Tech University Madrid—Spain
University College London	International Masters in Economy, State and Society	Charles University of Prague—Czech Republic University of Tartu—Estonia University of Helsinki—Finland Corvinus University of Budapest—Hungary Jagiellonian University—Poland
Institute of Education, University of London[1]	Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies	University of Florence—Italy Roskilde University University of Aarhus Denmark University of Burgundy University of Grenoble—France University of Kassel—Germany
University of Manchester	Law and Economies	Erasmus University Rotterdam—the Netherlands Ghent University—Belgium University of Hamburg—Germany University of Aix-Marseille—France University of Bologna—Italy University Vienna—Austria
London School of Economics[1]	Global Studies	University of Leipzig—Germany University of Vienna University of Wroclaw—Poland
University of Wales, Swansea[1] City University London[1]	Journalism and Media within Globalisation (EMMA)	University of Aarhus—Denmark Amsterdam University—the Netherlands
University of St. Andrews[1] University of Sheffield	Crossways in European Humanities	University of Perpignan Via Domitia—France University of Bergamo—Italy New University of Lisbon—Portugal

Summary of UK involvement in Erasmus Mundus Programme

1. UK institutions involved in developing Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses

Institution	*Erasmus Mundus Masters Course*	*Consortium Partners*
Staffordshire University	Economy Of International Trade and EU Integration	University of Antwerp – Belgium Free University of Brussels – Belgium University of Cantabria – Spain University of Bari – Italy University of Science and Technology of Lille – France Prague University of Economics – Czech Republic
Queen's University Belfast	Science in Management and Engineering of Environment and Energy	EM Nantes Grad Schl of Eng – France Tech. University of Madrid – Spain Budapest University of Technology and Economy – Hungary Royal Institute of Technology – Sweden
University of Wolverhampton	Natural Language Processing and Human Language Technology	Universite de Franche-Comte – France Universidade de Algarve – Portugal Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona – Spain
University of East Anglia, Norwich[1]	International Performance Research	Universite de Poitiers – France Christian Albrecht Universitaet zu Kiel – Germany Universidade de Coimbra – Portugal
University of Warwick	International Performance Research	Tamperee Yliopistoon – Finland Universityversiteit Van Amsterdam – the Netherlands
University of Exeter	Minerals and Environmental Programme	Technische Universiteit Delft – the Netherlands Miskolci Egyetem – Hungary RWTH Aachen University – Germany Teknillinen Korkeakoulu – Finland Wroclaw University of Technology – Poland
University of Strathclyde[1]	Global innovation Management	Aalborg Universiteit – Denmark Technische Universityversitaet Hamburg – Germany

[1] These institutions are also involved in Erasmus Mundus partnerships with third countries (non-EU) enabling EU students to study in a third country institution.

2. Erasmus Mundus projects involving UK Institutions in enhancing attractiveness of higher education in Europe

Institution	*Project*	*Outcome*
Aston University	Aquarius – Assuring quality in internationalisation of study courses and course guidance	To support international offices and student services in attracting more third country students
Birmingham Conservatoire, University of Central England	MUNDUS MUSICALIS, international project in the field of professional music training	Development of information website on music training in Europe
The Open University	European Distance Education Contact Credit Transfer in Virtual and Distance Education	To enhance global promotion and accessibility of European universities via a European contact centre on distance higher education. Promoting virtual academic mobility to Europe from third countries
University of Cambridge	BALANCE: Bologna – A Long-term Approach to New Certification in Europe	Series of seminars designed to strengthen the knowledge of higher education systems in Europe and the Bologna Process in North America, and to reinforce links between international offices in both regions

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service: Personal Records

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any personal information held by the University and Colleges Admissions Service is sold for commercial use. [214024]

Bill Rammell: The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service does not sell personal data for commercial purposes. It will, through its subsidiary company, UCAS Media, co-operate in advertising campaigns where information is sent or e-mailed to applicants (provided they have not opted out of receiving such communications). It is a matter of choice left to the applicant if they wish to pursue any promotional literature received but, until such times as they do so, the identity of individual applicants remains unknown to the advertiser.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity.

Vocational Training: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will consider the establishment of a dedicated learning bank through which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* employers and *(c)* the Government may fund skills training. [214989]

Bill Rammell: In "Workskills" (published on 12 June 2008), we set out our plans to offer all adults a skills account. These accounts will enable individuals to access funding to 'buy' the skills training provision that meets their needs, as well as encouraging personal investment in skills by making the value of skills—and the relative contributions of individuals, employers, and the state—more transparent.

From 2010, skills accounts will provide individuals with a virtual 'voucher' of funding from Government to spend at an accredited provider of their choice, or to redeem on work-based training through Train to Gain or an apprenticeship in discussion with their employer. Public funds would still flow, as now, direct from the LSC, but the money given to providers will follow the choices made by the individual, giving individuals maximum incentive to learn and providers the maximum incentive to offer what learners need. Skills accounts will also enable individuals to manage their own record of achievements, qualifications and aspirations and to access careers advice and guidance to support their choice of training.

We have already rolled out Train to Gain as the Government's premier skills service for employers, supporting employer of all sizes and in all sectors to identify and address their skills needs at all levels. Through Train to Gain, we are encouraging greater investment from employers in their employees by giving them real purchasing power. Skills brokers help employers identify the training and qualifications that will best address their skills needs, and help them to choose the training provider that is best placed to deliver that training at a time, and a place to suit them.

Together, these mechanisms aim to ensure that individuals have access to the funding from Government they need to realise their aspirations, and that they are empowered, well-informed and well supported in their learning journey, whether at college or at work.

The establishment of the proposed National Learning Bank would represent a fundamental change to the adult skills landscape, and a major departure from the mechanisms we already have in train to give individuals real purchasing power, and to encourage investment in skills from individuals and employers.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of the London Borough of Bexley entered higher education in each of the last five years, broken down by ward. [215054]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009. Figures broken down by ward are not available.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Bexley local authority, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Bexley	
Academic year	*All Entrants*	*Of which, Full-time*
1997/98[2]	1,200	925
1998/99	1,450	955
1999/2000	1,395	885
2000/01	1,620	1,035
2001/02	1,745	1,120
2002/03	1,785	1,155
2003/04	1,955	1,230
2004/05[3]	2,035	1,300
2005/06	2,100	1,360
2006/07	2,125	1,420

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest, five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study.

[2] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.

[3] The increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be greater than in reality as a consequence of a problem identified with, data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

HEALTH

Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Statistical Bulletin on Abortion Figures 2007, if he will review the abortion strategy for England and Wales. [213574]

Dawn Primarolo: In England, the Government are working hard to reduce unplanned pregnancies through improved contraceptive services and implementation of our Teenage Pregnancy and sexual health strategies. In 2008-09 £26.8 million has been invested to improve women's access to contraception and help reduce the number of abortions, repeat abortions and teenage pregnancies.

We are also working to ensure that women have access to abortion services as soon as possible as evidence shows that the risk of complications increases the later the gestation. We have made significant investment to improve early access and set a standard of a maximum waiting time of three weeks. The latest data for 2007 show that progress is being made to increase early access: 68 per cent. of national health service funded abortions took place at under 10 weeks compared with 51 per cent. in 2002.

A review of the Sexual Health and HIV Strategy is currently being undertaken by the Independent Advisory Group for Sexual Health and HIV which will be published in summer 2008.

Services in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women had had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven and *(h)* eight or more abortions at the most recent date for which figures are available. [213575]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Legal abortions: Number of previous abortions by age[1], England and Wales, 2007

Number of previous abortions	*Total*	*Under 18*	*18 to 24*	*25 to 29*	*30+*
0	134,269	18,824	58,433	24,939	32,073
1	49,484	1,378	18,220	12,530	17,356
2	11,136	74	3,223	3,145	4,694
3	2,605	[2]—	[2]—	787	1,214
4	740	[2]—	[2]—	225	379
5	184	[2]—	[2]—	47	119
6	52	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	27
7 or more	29	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	15
Total	198,499	20,289	80,629	41,704	55,877

[1] Age not stated have been distributed pro-rata across age group 20 to 24.

[2] Values are suppressed where totals are less than 10 (0 to 9) or where a presented total would reveal the suppressed value.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department is monitoring the implementation of the Abortion Act 1967; and if he will make a statement. [214059]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is responsible for monitoring the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, in England. The Department takes its role in monitoring the Act seriously and any complaints or allegations of abuse are investigated and action taken as appropriate.

The Abortion Act 1967 also places a legal duty to notify the chief medical officer, via the submission of form HSA4, when a registered medical practitioner terminates a pregnancy. The Department monitors all HSA4 forms to ensure compliance with the Act.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years was in 2007; and what forecast he has made of the rate in each of the next 10 years. [214060]

Dawn Primarolo: The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors. As such, we have invested £26.8 million in 2008-09 to improve women's access to contraception and help reduce the number of abortions, repeat abortions and teenage pregnancies. Further funding will be available in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The information is set out in the following table.

Abortion rates by age under 20, residents of England and Wales, 2007

Age	*Rate per 1,000 women[1]*
Under 14	[2]
14	2.9
15	9.4
16	19.4
17	27.5
18	32.4
19	36.1

[1] Rates are based on 2006 mid-year population estimates.

[2] Rate not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 29, *(e)* 30 to 34, *(f)* 35 to 39 and *(g)* over 40 years of age in (i) Essex Strategic Health Authority and (ii) England who had an abortion in 2007 had (A) no children, (B) one child, (C) two children, (D) three children, (E) four children and (F) five or more children. [214064]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Total abortions for residents of Essex PCTs[1] by number of previous births over 24 weeks, 2007

	Total previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or still birth						
Age[2]	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 and more*	*Total*
Under 18	550	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	567
18 to 19	558	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	643
20 to 24	900	321	146	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	1,416
25 to 29	426	270	232	100	[3]—	[3]—	1,071
30 to 34	191	157	255	109	45	16	773
35 to 39	89	118	241	100	52	16	616
40 and over	22	31	99	66	24	13	255
Total all ages	2,736	981	990	417	160	57	5,341

[1] Totals shown relate to primary care trusts for Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex.

[2] Age groups are shown as published so as not to overlap ages and reveal small numbers.

[3] Denotes suppressed value or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

Total abortions for residents of England by number of previous births over 24 weeks, 2007

	Total previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or still birth						
Age	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 and more*	*Total*
Under 18	18,397	782	51	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	19,246
18 to 19	18,532	3,388	477	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	22,457
20 to 24	34,298	12,807	5,601	1,284	[1]—	[1]—	54,322
25 to 29	17,826	9,664	7,955	3,229	987	336	39,997
30 to 34	7,290	5,924	7,616	3,499	1,284	604	26,217
35 to 39	3,380	3,732	6,679	3,307	1,299	781	19,178
40 and over	1,151	1,430	2,927	1,709	674	426	8,317

Total abortions for residents of England by number of previous births over 24 weeks, 2007

	Total previous pregnancies that resulted in a live or still birth						
Age	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 and more*	*Total*
Total all ages	100,874	37,727	31,306	13,087	4,523	2,217	189,734

[1] Denotes suppressed value or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 primary care organisations had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest abortion rates in England per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years in 2007. [214066]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Highest and lowest rates by primary care organisation (PCO), England, 2007

	Primary care organisation	*Rate per 1,000 women resident aged 15-44*[1]
	England	18.8
	Lowest rates	
5PP	Cambridgeshire	11
5ND	County Durham	12
5NF	North Lancashire Teaching	12
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset	13
5PW	North East Essex	13
5QE	Oxfordshire	13
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire	13
5PT	Suffolk	13
5NV	North Yorkshire and York	13
5PH	North Staffordshire	13
	Highest rates	
5C9	Haringey Teaching	32
5K9	Croydon	33
5K5	Brent Teaching	35
5A8	Greenwich Teaching	35
5NC	Waltham Forest	36
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching	36
5LF	Lewisham	37
5LD	Lambeth	39
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	40
5LE	Southwark	41

[1] Rates for PCOs are based on 2006 mid year population estimates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and how many and what percentage were performed *(a)* to save the life of the mother and *(b)* where the child would have been seriously disabled in each year for which figures are available. [214067]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Abortions by grounds[1], residents, England and Wales, 1968-2007

	To save the life of the woman			*Foetal handicap*		
	Section 1(4) total	*Section 1(1)(c) total*	*Percentage*	*Section 1(1)(d) total*	*Section 1(1)(d) percentage*	*Total all abortions*
1968	59	1,146	5.4	1,304	5.8	22,332
1969	45	1,842	3.8	1,849	3.7	49,829
1970	45	2,163	2.9	2,048	2.7	75,962
1971	20	1,882	2.0	2,237	2.4	94,570
1972	24	1,711	1.6	2,013	1.9	108,565
1973	17	1,228	1.1	2,019	1.8	110,568
1974	9	1,061	1.0	1,686	1.5	109,445
1975	8	1,068	1.0	1,572	1.5	106,224
1976	10	949	0.9	1,316	1.3	101,912
1977	11	840	0.8	1,474	1.4	102,677
1978	12	679	0.6	2,356	2.1	111,851
1979	13	592	0.5	2,151	1.8	120,611
1980	7	680	0.5	1,900	1.5	128,927
1981	14	752	0.6	1,818	1.4	128,581
1982	11	655	0.5	2,006	1.6	128,553
1983	5	538	0.4	2,019	1.6	127,375
1984	17	582	0.4	2,007	1.5	136,388
1985	15	524	0.4	1,921	1.4	141,101
1986	6	480	0.3	1,963	1.3	147,619
1987	7	475	0.3	1,862	1.2	156,191
1988	11	479	0.3	1,732	1.0	168,298
1989	5	351	0.2	1,651	1.0	170,463
1990	5	435	0.3	1,589	0.9	173,900
1991	5	375	0.2	1,710	1.0	167,376
1992	2	254	0.2	1,802	1.1	160,501
1993	3	163	0.1	1,935	1.2	157,846
1994	1	146	0.1	1,796	1.1	156,539
1995	0	126	0.1	1,823	1.2	154,315

Abortions by grounds[1], residents, England and Wales, 1968-2007

	To save the life of the woman			Foetal handicap		
	Section 1(4) total	Section 1(1)(c) total	Percentage	Section 1(1)(d) total	Section 1(1)(d) percentage	Total all abortions
1996	3	128	0.1	1,929	1.1	167,916
1997	4	117	0.1	1,853	1.1	170,145
1998	2	106	0.1	1,830	1.0	177,871
1999	1	94	0.1	1,813	1.0	173,701
2000	3	134	0.1	1,833	1.0	175,542
2001	0	61	0.0	1,722	1.0	176,364
2002	1	116	0.1	1,894	1.1	175,932
2003		[2]137	0.1	1,941	1.1	181,582
2004		[2]128	0.1	1,894	1.0	185,415
2005		[2]128	0.1	1,916	1.0	186,416
2006		149	0.1	[2]2,036	1.1	193,737
2007		112	0.1	[2]1,939	1.0	198,499
Total	401	[2]23,586	0.4	[2]72,220	1.3	5,681,639

* denotes suppressed value less than 10 (0-9 cases). Data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

[1] Grounds under the Abortion Act 1967.

Section 1(4) that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Section 1(1)(c) that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, or (was part of 1(1)(a) prior to 1991).

Section 1(1)(d) that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

[2] Total includes very small numbers less than 10 (0-9) where suppressed elsewhere.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* Essex Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* England and Wales had an abortion in 2007 who had already had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions. [214068]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Total abortions for residents of Essex[1], and England and Wales, by number of previous abortions, 2007

Number of previous abortions	Essex primary care trusts	England and Wales
0	3,564	134,269
1	1,346	49,484
2	326	11,136
3	74	2,605
4	—	740
5	—	184
6	—	52
7 or more	—	29
Total	5,341	198,499

* Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented value would reveal a suppressed total less than 10.

[1] Totals shown relate to PCTs for Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex.

Note:

Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 cases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the availability of the morning-after pill on the abortion rate in England; and if he will make a statement; [214069]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the reasons for trends in the abortion rate in England in 2006 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [214070]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment has been made of the effect of the morning after pill on the abortion rate in England.

The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors. It is difficult to attribute any changes to one intervention or event such as the increased availability of emergency contraception.

The 2007 abortion statistics show an increase in the number of abortions in younger women which is why we have invested £26.8 million in 2008-09 to improve women's access to contraception and help reduce the number of abortions, repeat abortions and teenage pregnancies.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinics are registered to perform abortions in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex; whether they receive public funding to carry out these procedures; and if he will make a statement. [214071]

Dawn Primarolo: There is one independent sector clinic in Essex registered with the Healthcare Commission to perform abortions, there are none in Southend. The clinic performs national health service-funded and privately-funded abortions. NHS hospitals are not required to register to perform abortions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the abortion rates among girls aged under *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16 years were in 2007, broken down by region. [214072]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Abortion rates for women age under 16 and under 18, by region of residence, 2007

	Rate per 1,000 women[1]	
Region (Strategic Health Authority)	Under 16	Under 18
East Midlands	4	17
East of England	3	17
London	5	27
North East	6	21
North West	5	22

Abortion rates for women age under 16 and under 18, by region of residence, 2007

	Rate per 1,000 women[1]	
South Central	4	16
South East Coast	4	17
South West	4	17
West Midlands	5	21
Yorkshire and The Humber	5	21
Wales	4	18
England and Wales	4	20

[1] Rates for ages under 16 and under 18 are based on populations 13 to 15 and 15 to 17 respectively. Rates are based on 2006 mid year population estimates.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in 2007, broken down by *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* grounds of the abortion and *(c)* gestation of the pregnancy. [214073]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Abortions for residents of Essex primary care trusts (PCTs)[1] by age, gestation and grounds, 2007

Age	South East Essex	North East Essex	Mid Essex	South West Essex	West Essex	Total Essex PCTs
under 16	22	23	22	24	21	112
16	34	30	30	43	36	173
17	51	42	48	85	56	282
18	76	70	61	76	59	342
19	60	58	48	73	62	301
20	68	52	66	86	54	326
21	60	51	45	77	57	290
22	52	34	63	79	53	281
23	52	40	49	89	50	280
24	49	32	44	66	48	239
25	34	36	33	85	52	240
26	47	27	30	80	55	239
27	42	34	38	61	51	226
28	35	22	39	71	36	203
29	32	17	28	61	25	163
30	37	17	25	57	28	164
31	31	16	31	54	34	166
32	30	19	19	43	26	137
33	30	18	31	36	35	150
34	38	23	29	40	26	156
35	31	17	23	39	24	134
36	18	15	25	39	29	126
37	28	12	29	36	26	131
38	22	19	19	38	22	120
39	15	13	21	35	21	105
40 and over	40	28	55	74	58	255
Total	1,034	765	951	1,547	1,044	5,341

Gestation weeks	South East Essex	North East Essex	Mid Essex	South West Essex	West Essex	Total Essex PCTs
under 6	102	33	115	189	141	580
6	170	73	173	261	214	891
7	232	102	189	313	206	1042
8	149	164	170	264	132	879
9	126	132	79	170	95	602
10	88	101	84	133	94	500
11	54	66	37	67	54	278
12	37	28	25	39	36	165
13	21	18	16	19	18	92
14 and over	55	48	63	92	54	312
Total	1,034	765	951	1,547	1,044	5,341

Grounds[2]	South East Essex	North East Essex	Mid Essex	South West Essex	West Essex	Total Essex PCTs
Section 1(1)(a)	—	—	—	—	—	5,131
Section 1(1)(d)	—	—	—	—	—	35
Other grounds	—	—	—	—	—	175

Grounds[2]	*South East Essex*	*North East Essex*	*Mid Essex*	*South West Essex*	*West Essex*	*Total Essex PCTs*
Total	1,034	765	951	1,547	1,044	5,341

[1] Information about residents of Southend is contained within South East Essex PCT and is not collected separately. Suppressed total less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

[2] Section 1(1)(a) that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or any existing children of her family.
Section 1(1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.
Other grounds
Section 1(1)(b) that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman
Section 1(1)(c) that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated.
Section 1(4) that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 primary care organisations had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest abortion rates in England per 1,000 women aged (i) under 16, (ii) 17, (iii) 18, (iv) 19, (v) 20 and (vi) 21 years in 2007. [214076]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Highest and lowest rates by primary care organisation (PCO) and age: England 2007

Age rate	*PCO*	*Rate per 1,000 women*
Under 16[1]	*England*	4
	Lowest rates	
	Redbridge	2
	Suffolk	2
	Luton Teaching	2
	Newham	3
	Richmond and Twickenham	3
	Somerset	3
	Harrow	3
	Herefordshire	3
	Buckinghamshire	3
	Kingston	3
	Highest rates	
	Southwark	8
	South Tyneside	8
	North Lincolnshire	8
	Portsmouth City Teaching	9
	Islington	9
	Hartlepool	9
	Haringey Teaching	9
	Darlington	9
	Wandsworth Teaching	9
	Lewisham	10
16 years	*England*	19
	Lowest rates	
	Kingston	8
	Bassetlaw	10
	Richmond and Twickenham	11
	Blackburn and Darwen Teaching	12
	Cambridgeshire	12
	Surrey	12
	Bath and North East Somerset	12
	Buckinghamshire	12
	Westminster	13
	North Lincolnshire	13
	Highest rates	
	Coventry Teaching	31
	Barking and Dagenham	31
	Hammersmith and Fulham	33
	Waltham Forest	34
	City and Hackney Teaching	36
	Greenwich Teaching	39
	Haringey Teaching	40
	Lewisham	45
	Lambeth	46
	Southwark	49
17 years	*England*	28
	Lowest rates	
	Gateshead	15
	Isle of Wight	16
	North Somerset	16
	Cambridgeshire	17
	Suffolk	17
	Shropshire County	18
	Wiltshire	18
	Hartlepool	18
	Derbyshire County	18
	Dorset	19
	Highest rates	
	Haringey Teaching	46
	Islington	48
	Waltham Forest	48
	Coventry Teaching	49
	Enfield	49
	Barking and Dagenham	52
	Greenwich Teaching	54
	City and Hackney Teaching	56
	Lambeth	68
	Southwark	69
18 years	*England*	33
	Lowest rates	
	North Somerset	14
	Dorset	17
	Richmond and Twickenham	20

Highest and lowest rates by primary care organisation (PCO) and age: England 2007

Age rate	PCO	Rate per 1,000 women
	Somerset	20
	Barnsley	20
	Kensington and Chelsea	21
	Cambridgeshire	22
	Central and Eastern Cheshire	22
	Northumberland and Care Trust	22
	Bath and North East Somerset	22
	Highest rates	
	City and Hackney Teaching	53
	Liverpool	53
	Lewisham	55
	Wandsworth Teaching	55
	Haringey Teaching	55
	Waltham Forest	56
	Croydon	58
	Barking and Dagenham	63
	Lambeth	78
	Southwark	81
19 years	*England*	36
	Lowest rates	
	North Lancashire	16
	Redcar and Cleveland	17
	Bath and North East Somerset	19
	County Durham	21
	Oxfordshire	21
	North Staffordshire	21
	Southampton City	22
	Camden	23
	Devon	23
	Newcastle	24
	Highest rates	
	Croydon	64
	Barking and Dagenham	67
	Waltham Forest	68
	Enfield	71
	City and Hackney Teaching	73
	Southwark	75
	Haringey Teaching	75
	Greenwich Teaching	78
	Lambeth	81
	Lewisham	83
20 years	*England*	36
	Lowest rates	
	Cambridgeshire	16
	Nottingham City	20
	County Durham	20
	Southampton City	21
	North Lancashire	22
	Bristol	22
	Oxfordshire	22
	Newcastle	23
	East Riding of Yorkshire	23
	Devon	23
	Highest rates	
	Haringey Teaching	66
	Lewisham	67
	Darlington	67
	Greenwich Teaching	71
	Southwark	74
	Croydon	74
	Barking and Dagenham	75
	City and Hackney Teaching	82
	Waltham Forest	84
	Lambeth	89
21 years	*England*	34
	Lowest rates	
	Isle of Wight	7
	Cambridgeshire	17
	Newcastle	19
	Nottingham City	20
	North Lancashire	21
	Oxfordshire	21
	County Durham	22
	Plymouth Teaching	22
	Hull	23
	Bristol	23
	Highest rates	
	Ealing	63
	Enfield	63
	City and Hackney Teaching	67
	Greenwich Teaching	67
	Waltham Forest	70
	Lewisham	71
	Haringey Teaching	76
	Barking and Dagenham	77
	Southwark	78
	Lambeth	88

[1] Rates for under 16s are based on populations aged 13-15

Note:

Rates for PCOs are based on 2006 mid year population estimates.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women seeking an abortion in England gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Republic of Ireland, *(c)* the State of Israel, *(d)* Malta and *(e)* Poland in 2006. [214292]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Abortions taking place in England and Wales, by selected country of residence, 2006

Country of residence	2006
Northern Ireland	1,295
Irish Republic	5,042
Israel	
Malta	55
Poland	10

Note:
Suppressed value less than 5 (between 0-4)

Abortion: Costs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of abortions carried out on non-UK residents in hospitals and clinics in England was in 2007. [213811]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Those people who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom are subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended and will be chargeable for any treatment they receive, including terminations of pregnancy, unless an exemption from charges category applies to them.

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* introduce and *(b)* support an amendment to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill extending the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what representations he has received from hon. and right hon. Members wishing to extend the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [214042]

Dawn Primarolo: It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes.

The Department has received no representations from hon. or right hon. Members to extend the Abortion Act 1967, as amended to Northern Ireland.

Abortion: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinics are registered to perform abortions in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* Buckinghamshire; whether they receive public funding to carry out these procedures; and if he will make a statement. [214945]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no independent sector clinics registered with the Healthcare Commission to perform abortions in Milton Keynes or in Buckinghamshire. National health service hospitals are not required to register to perform abortions.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency admissions took place between *(a)* 6:00 am and noon, *(b)* noon and 4:00 pm and *(c)* 4:00pm and 9:00pm in the latest period for which figures are available. [214446]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available centrally.

Latest published data show that, for January to March (quarter four) 2007-08 there were 771,217 emergency admissions via type 1 (major) accident and emergency (A and E) departments in England.

Information is also available on attendances at A and E departments but this is collected separately.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients admitted to hospital in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* the North-West needed treatment for excess drinking in each of the last three years. [214118]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held in format requested. However, details of alcohol related hospital admissions for the Central Lancashire primary care trust and the North West strategic health authority areas have been set out in the following table.

			Primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol		*Primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol and a main operative procedure*	
		Total of all admissions into hospital	*Admissions*	*Percentage of all admissions to hospital*	*Admissions*	*Percentage of all admissions to hospital*
2006-07	Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust	138,756	702	0.5	169	0.1
	North West Strategic Health Authority	2,209,405	11,627	0.5	1,422	0.1
2005-06	Preston Primary Care Trust	41,677	250	0.6	42	0.1
	Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust	60,310	237	0.4	51	0.1
	West Lancashire Primary Care Trust	26,216	206	0.8	20	0.1
	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	565,153	2,658	0.5	366	0.1
	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority	722,394	4,608	0.6	318	0.0
	Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority	760,302	3,899	0.5	374	0.0
2004-05	Preston Primary Care Trust	38,545	204	0.5	32	0.1
	Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust	56,684	219	0.4	37	0.1
	West Lancashire Primary Care Trust	23,979	136	0.6	12	0.1
	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	557,933	2,541	0.5	294	0.1

	Total of all admissions into hospital	Primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol		Primary diagnosis specifically related to alcohol and a main operative procedure	
		Admissions	Percentage of all admissions to hospital	Admissions	Percentage of all admissions to hospital
Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority	677,345	4,189	0.6	383	0.1
Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority	742,595	3,373	0.5	397	0.1

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 25-year-olds were admitted to hospital in London for alcohol-related illness in the most recent period for which figures are available. [214185]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of admissions to hospital in the London strategic health authority (SHA) area where the patient was under 25 years old and had a primary or secondary diagnosis that was specifically alcohol-related at the start of his or her stay was 2,174 in 2006-07. This is the latest period for which data are available.

Notes

1. This figure is for national health service hospitals in England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS.

2. *Admissions*

The technical term for what has been supplied is finished admission episodes (FAEs). An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. *Assignment of Episodes to Years*

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

4. *Data Quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. *Mentions of a diagnosis*

This figure represents a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted. Diagnosis codes used:

mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol;

alcoholic liver disease; and

toxic effect of alcohol.

6. *Ungrossed Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

7. *PCT and SHA Data Quality*

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality on PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for people with an alcohol addiction for an appointment with a psychiatric nurse *(a)* nationally and *(b)* broken down by region in the latest period for which figures are available. [215009]

Dawn Primarolo: On 1 November 2005 the Department published the "Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project" (ANARP) assessment of alcohol needs in England. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. Its main focus was the measurement of the gap between the demand for and provision of specialist alcohol treatment services in England at a national and regional level.

ANARP conducted their research over a period of six months between September 2004 and February 2005. As part of this work waiting times for an appointment with a psychiatric nurse were recorded. The following table gives the average waiting time for an appointment with a psychiatric nurse for those with alcohol addiction for England and by region:

Region	Average waiting time (weeks)
East Midlands	3.91
Eastern	6.31
London	4.07
North East	6.50
North West	4.33
South East	3.34
South West	6.42
West Midlands	3.96
Yorkshire and Humber	4.85
England	4.60

Except for ANARP, data on those receiving alcohol treatment have not been routinely collected. However, on 1 April 2008 the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, which collects data on people in structured drug treatment, was expanded to include the collection of alcohol treatment data.

This system is called the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System and although it is too early in its use to provide quality assured data, it will in time allow the Department, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to monitor alcohol treatment services, including information on waiting times.

Analgesics

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the National Health Service was of the provision of analgesics to patients in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [214303]

Dawn Primarolo: Analgesics are listed in section 4.7 of the British National Formulary. The total net ingredient cost for these drugs dispensed, in the community, in England, in 2007 was £450.8 million[1].

[1] *Source:*

Prescription Cost Analysis System.

Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the funding formula for Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust to take account of expenditure incurred in providing healthcare to detainees at the Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre. [213660]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a fair funding formula which directs funding to those areas of greatest need. The primary determinant of need is the size of the population for which PCTs are responsible and, therefore, populations are the basis upon which weighted capitation targets are calculated.

The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), an independent body consisting of national health service management, general practitioners and academics, continually oversees the development of the funding formula. As part of its recent review, ACRA has considered the population base for revenue allocations post 2008-09. This includes how asylum seekers are accounted for within the population base.

ACRA's final recommendations are currently with Ministers for consideration. The intention is to announce the outcome of the review alongside allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 before the summer recess.

The UK Border Agency funds the provision of primary healthcare services for persons detained at Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre through the operating contract for the centre.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred by Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust in providing healthcare for detainees at the Yarl's Wood Detention and Removal Centre in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [213661]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requested information is not held centrally.

It is for Bedfordshire primary care trust to commission appropriate services for those detained at Yarl's Wood, over and above the primary health care services provided on site by the Home Office.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this locally.

Blood Transfusions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to the *(a)* MacFarlane Trust and *(b)* Skipton Fund to support (i) haemophiliacs and (ii) dependants of haemophiliacs infected with HIV and hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [213607]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of funding since 1990 for the Macfarlane Trust and Skipton Fund Ltd. are shown as follows:

Macfarlane Trust and Skipton Fund Ltd. Funding by the Department of Health

£000

Year ending 31 March	*Macfarlane Trust*	*Skipton Fund Ltd*
1990	100	0
1991	130	0
1992	136	0
1993	5,165	0
1994	158	0
1995	166	0
1996	2,662	0
1997	173	0
1998	3,177	0
1999	181	0
2000	2,187	0
2001	2,693	0
2002	2,448	0
2003	284	0
2004	3,469	0
2005	3,287	[1]70,147
2006	3,778	14,000
2007	3,754	7,000
2008	3,754	6,400

[1] includes funding for the month of March 2004

Notes:

1. Funding to both organisations covers both payments to beneficiaries and administration costs.

2. It is not possible to provide separate figures in relation to haemophiliacs, and their dependents.

Cancer: Per Capita Costs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita public expenditure on cancer care within Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust was in the latest period for which figures are available. [214190]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not held centrally.

Cord Blood

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans National Health Service Blood and Transplant has to relocate cord blood collection sites to Bristol; and if he will make a statement. [213994]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has no plans to relocate cord blood collection sites to Bristol. Cord blood will continue to be collected from the four hospitals in North London where this currently takes place. Each has been selected on the basis of their high number of births from the black and ethnic minority population, with collection also due to begin at a fifth hospital, St. George's in Tooting later this year.

The four collection centres for cord blood are:

Luton and Dunstable Hospital;

Barnet General Hospital;

Northwick Park Hospital; and

Watford General Hospital.

The banking and processing of cord blood will move to NHSBT's new state-of-the-art centre at Filton, near Bristol, which will also house other stem cell activities.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of cord blood collected by the NHS Cord Blood bank since 2005 were not suitable for clinical use. [213995]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Cord Blood Bank has supplied the information shown in the following table:

	Total units collected	*Unsuitable units*	*Percentage of total unsuitable*
2004-05	2,543	1,065	41.9
2005-06	2,056	996	48.5
2006-07	2,232	993	44.5
2007-08	2,632	840	32

Unfortunately, not every cord blood collection is successful in producing a unit that can be used for transplant or research. This can be due to a low volume of cord blood or if the cord blood clots during the collection procedure, there is the presence of microbiological infection or consent to use it is withdrawn. On average, public blood banks around the world find approximately 50 per cent. of donations suitable for processing and storage.

Dental Services: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have left the NHS in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in the last 12 months. [214482]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division can only provide validated information on the number of dentists leaving the national health service at disproportionate cost.

The Department is increasing the number of dentists for the long term. The Department has increased the number of undergraduate training places by 25 per cent. and established two dental schools (in Plymouth and Preston) which opened in autumn 2007.

Dental Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general dental practitioners there are in York; and how many there were in each of the last two years. [213909]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists on primary care trust (PCT) lists in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care (IC), on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of dentists on open NHS contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This report, published by the IC, on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available on the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for counting and reporting the NHS dental work force is currently under review. The review, led by analysts at the IC and the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, working in liaison with the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, aims to ensure that following the first year of the new dental contractual arrangements, the figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force.

The work force data provided in the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete. The review is currently at consultation stage and is due to end on 11 July 2008.

The intention is to publish work force data in the NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2007-08 report which is due to be published in August 2008.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are registered with NHS general dental practices in York; and how many were registered at York practices in each year since 1997. [213911]

Ann Keen: The numbers of patients registered with a national health service dentist as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided for adults and children by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's (IC's) website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, is available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007, and 31 December 2007. Information is provided for adults and children by SHA and PCT.

This report, published on 5 June 2008, is available in the Library and is available on the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Both the aforementioned reports have been published by the IC.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS general dental services in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* York in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each of the last 10 years. [213912]

Ann Keen: For 2006-07, data on primary dental care expenditure can be derived from primary care trust (PCT) accounts. These data reflect the new contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006 which takes account of all relevant service costs, and is based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006. However, it is not directly comparable with the available pre-2006 data. Expenditure on primary dental services in the North Yorkshire and York PCT in 2006-07 is shown in the following table. The PCT's accounts do not separately distinguish between expenditure in North Yorkshire, and York City.

Expenditure on primary dental care services in North Yorkshire and York PCT in 2006-07

	£000
Gross expenditure	32,165
Dental charges paid by patients	8,875
Net expenditure	23,290

Source:

Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the 2006-07 PCT accounts.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental services (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The Information Centre for health and social care holds local level information on the expenditure for NHS primary dental care under the former GDS and personal dental services arrangements. Expenditure information in cash and real terms (2006-07 prices), for the financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06 is available for the following PCTs:

Selby and York;

Hambleton and Richmondshire;

Craven, Harrogate and Rural District;

and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale.

This information is contained in the document, "Expenditure on General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services in North Yorkshire, 1997-98 to 2005-06", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average remuneration of a full-time equivalent NHS general dental practitioner is in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* York; and what it was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each of the last 10 years. [213913]

Ann Keen: Average remuneration per full-time equivalent national health service general dental practitioner in the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) area alone is not identifiable from data held centrally.

All estimated average annual net incomes, between the financial years 1997-98 and 2005-06, of general dental service (GDS) dentists with a reasonable commitment to the GDS are shown in the following table:

Estimated average GDS net income for dentists with a reasonable GDS commitment[1], 1997-98 to 2005-06, England and Wales

		£
Financial year	*Estimated average net income (cash terms)*	*Estimated average net income (real terms 2005-06 prices)*
1997-98	51,200	62,000
1998-99	54,300	64,100
1999-2000	55,700	64,400
2000-01	59,200	67,500
2001-02	60,500	67,400
2002-03	63,300	68,400
2003-04	72,000	75,600
2004-05	71,600	73,100
2005-06	83,100	83,100

Notes:

1. Dentists with a reasonable commitment to the GDS exclude dentists with the lowest gross NHS earnings who will be doing mainly private work. Dentists covered are those with gross GDS earnings of £62,200 or more in 2005-06 with equivalent lower earnings requirements in previous years after allowing for fee increases. This category will include dentists whose NHS commitment ranges from virtually full-time to part-time.

2. The ratio of expenses to gross income is estimated using HMRC tax data on the overall earnings and expenses of non-associate dentists. Average net income prior to 2003-04 is estimated by multiplying the average gross GDS payment in that year (based on National Health Service Business Services Authority payment data) by the most up to date net income ratio available for that year (based on HMRC data relating to all non-associate dentists in Great Britain). For 2003-04 to 2005-06, net income has been estimated using GDS payment data for each year multiplied by the profit ratio for dentists with a high-commitment to the NHS for the respective year.

3. Figures converted into real terms using gross domestic product deflator at market prices. The income figures cover both estimated fees for treatments and patient capitation as well as other estimated payments such as seniority payments, commitment payments and payments for maternity and sickness payable under the pre-April 2006 dental contract. Income from private dentistry is excluded. Income for individual dentists will depend on associate arrangements with other dentists.

Source:

Department of Health and Information Centre for health and social care analysis of Dental Practice Board payments and HM Revenue and Customs (HRMC) tax data.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213218]

Mr. Bradshaw: Assets owned by the Department are depreciated over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new business management system was introduced on 1 July 2008, which is be able to gather such future but not retrospective information for the Department.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201741]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are committed to reducing our energy consumption across our estate. We have been working with the Carbon Trust to identify energy saving measures, and we have recently appointed a consultant to work with us to implement a Carbon Management programme throughout our core estate and in our arms length bodies.

Over the past 12 months we have introduced a new managed print service where existing printers, photocopiers and fax machines have been replaced by multi-function devices. This has reduced the number of print devices by three-quarters. The ratio of staff to printers has reduced from 3:1 to an average of 10:1.

We have taken part in a number of staff events aimed at encouraging people to save energy, both at work and at home.

The Department's expenditure on energy was:

April 2007 to March 2008

	£
Electricity	949,735
Gas	145,703

The immediately preceding 12 months

	£
Electricity	911,062
Gas	157,685

The Sustainable Development Commission publishes an annual Sustainable Development in Government report reporting Government's progress against sustainability targets. The Department came top of the report (covering April 2006 to March 2007), with a score of 97.3 per cent.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requests for information on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* contraception, *(c)* reproductive health issues and *(d)* euthanasia were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year since 2005; and whether each request was (i) agreed to and (ii) refused. [212446]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show the numbers of requests received and nature of responses provided on each of the topics specified for each year since 2005. More detailed information listing all requests received has been placed in the Library.

Abortion

	Received	*Agreed/ answered in full*	*Agreed answered in part*	*Refused*	*Not held*
2005	18	1	3	14	0
2006	12	4	4	2	2
2007	14	8	5	0	1
2008 (to June)[1]	18	6	4	4	2

Contraception

	Received	*Agreed/ answered in full*	*Agreed answered in part*	*Refused*	*Not held*
2006	7	3	1	0	3
2007	2	1	1	0	0
2008 (to June)	3	1	1	0	1

Reproductive health issues

	Received	*Agreed/ answered in full*	*Agreed answered in part*	*Refused*	*Not held*
2005[2]	10	3	1	1	3
2006	18	11	1	1	5
2007[2]	21	9	1	2	8
2008 (to June)	2	2	0	0	0

Euthanasia

	Received	*Agreed/ answered in full*	*Agreed/ answered in part*	*Refused*	*Not held*
2005[3]	1	1	0	0	0

[1] To date two requests for 2008 have not yet been answered.

[2] The Department asked requesters to provide further clarification or their requests for one request in 2005 and one in 2007.

[3] No requests were received in 2006, 2007 or 2008.

Note:

The responses described in the tables above are the initial responses provided to the requester in each case. Responses listed are:

'Agreed - answered in full';

'Answered in part, where part of the information requested was either not held or subject to an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act;

'Refused', where all of the information requested was considered to be exempt under the Act; and

'Information not held', where the Department did not hold the information requested.

In one of the cases listed, a 2005 request asking "How many 11/12/13/14 years olds had abortions in England and Wales in 2003-04?" the requester appealed successfully to the Information Commissioner, and the information was subsequently released.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a breakdown of the £1.4 billion central capital budgets, stating what percentage of this funding has already been allocated. [209139]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures behind the £1.4 billion allocation for central budgets in the Department of Health departmental report 2008 are shown in the following table. These are budgets for central expenditure and were notified to Department's budget-holders in March 2008. It should be noted that changes will be made from time to time to the value of individual budgets as requirements are refined in the course of the year.

2008-09 Capital resource

Description of budget	*£000*
Total Arms Length Body capital requirement	136,355
Connecting for Health, the National Programme for Information Technology	917,000
Capital resource cover for Wave 2 independent sector treatment centre procurements and resources for enabling works	29,500
Electronic staff record	21,200
Various human resources initiatives, principally the development of E-learning	22,000
Skills for Care	2,000
Capital Grants for Improvements to environments in hospices—completion of 2006 programme	2,100
Social enterprises	11,000
Tuberculosis action plan	5,000
Investment in capital procurement vehicles, principally National Health Service Local Improvement Finance Trust	30,000
Protection of children and vulnerable people	3,945
Pandemic Flu, purchase of vaccines and anti-virals and other stocks	51,340
Departmental Administration	19,970
Total allocated for central expenditure	1,251,410
Contingency fund to cover risks	148,590
Total central budgets	1,400,000

Departmental Records

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on *(a)* the Abortion (Rights of Ancillary Workers) Bill of Session 1988-89, *(b)* the Abortion (Right of Conscience) Bill of Session 1988-89 and *(c)* the Abortion (Amendment of Grounds) Bill of Session 1988-89; and if he will make a statement. [214061]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold any files on the Abortion (Rights of Ancillary Workers) Bill of Session 1988-89, the Abortion (Right of Conscience) Bill of Session 1988-89 and the Abortion (Amendment of Grounds) Bill of Session 1988-89.

Drownings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* persons under 16 years, *(b)* persons aged 16 to 18 years and *(c)* persons aged over 18 years were admitted to hospital after drowning in (i) public swimming pools, (ii) private swimming pools, (iii) garden ponds and (iv) public lakes and ponds in each of the last five years. [212243]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables contain relevant available information collected centrally, namely total admissions to hospital after drowning and submersion in a swimming pool, natural water, other specified drowning and submersion, and unknown drowning or submersion at the start of his/her stay broken down by persons under 16 years, persons aged 16-18 years, and persons aged over 18 years in 2002-03.

The figures also do not include drownings that occurred in, or as a result of, a fall into a bath tub.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS.

2002-03

	0-15 years	*16-18 years*	*19 years and over*	*Total*
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool	45	1	12	58
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water	24	1	44	69
Other specified drowning and submersion	17	0	9	26
Unspecified drowning and submersion	63	0	55	118

2003-04

	0-15 years	*16-18 years*	*19 years and over*	*Unknown or unspecified age*	*Total*
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool	44	0	12	0	56
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water	39	1	51	1	92
Other specified drowning and submersion	18	2	4	0	24
Unspecified drowning and submersion	68	2	58	0	128

2004-05

	0-15 years	*16-18 years*	*19 years and over*	*Total*
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool	50	3	12	65
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water	33	3	54	90
Other specified drowning and submersion	18	1	6	25
Unspecified drowning and submersion	53	5	60	118

2005-06

	0-15 years	*16-18 years*	*19 years and over*	*Unknown or unspecified age*	*Total*
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool	53	2	13	0	68
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water	17	3	48	1	69
Other specified drowning and submersion	13	0	3	0	16
Unspecified drowning and submersion	34	7	57	0	98

2006-07

	0-15 years	*16-18 years*	*19 years and over*	*Total*
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool	32	1	12	45
Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water	35	4	68	107
Other specified drowning and submersion	13	1	7	21
Unspecified drowning and submersion	52	5	66	123

Notes:

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD10) codes for drowning:

1. Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into a swimming pool.
W67 Drowning and submersion while in swimming pool.
W68 Drowning and submersion following fall into swimming pool.
2. Drowning and submersion while in or following a fall into natural water.
W69 Drowning and submersion while in natural water
W70 Drowning and submersion following fall into natural water
3. Other specified drowning and submersion.
W73 Other specified drowning and submersion
4. Unspecified drowning and submersion.
W74 Unspecified drowning and submersion

Admissions

Admissions are defined as the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Cause Code:

The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.

Data Quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by

the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be home in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the levels of abuse of older people who are (i) resident in care homes and (ii) suffering from dementia; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [214075]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 27 March 2008, the Department and Comic Relief announced £2 million funding for a new joint research initiative to investigate the dignity and safety of older people being cared for in institutional settings. The study will explore the experience of older people, and the staff who care for them, in settings such as care homes, intermediate care and hospitals.

The new research is likely to run until April 2011. An advertisement inviting tenders to undertake the research was placed in The Guardian newspaper on 4 June 2008, with on-line registration of interest (ROI) required by 23 June.

It will build on research published in 2007, also funded by the Department and Comic Relief, which examined the prevalence of abuse of older people living in their own homes.

Although the experience of older people with dementia was not included as a specific aspect in this first study, we envisage that the research in institutional settings will include methods to take account of their experiences.

A total of 32 ROIs have been received. These will be sifted shortly. Full research applications are due to be received by 27 August 2008.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first and *(b)* other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187749]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the 12 month period from January 2007 to December 2007 the spend on travel by Eurostar for the Department and its agencies is as follows:

	£
First class	205,822
Other class	30,252

General Practitioners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason existing GP practices are not able to expand to meet Government requirements for equitable access. [214444]

Mr. Bradshaw: The additional funding provided to primary care trusts in poorly served areas is to secure additional new primary care capacity through an open and fair transparent procurement process. This does not preclude existing general practitioner (GP) practices putting forward tenders to expand existing services and capacity that meet local service specifications. Existing GP practices have also seen an increase in investment in their practices of over 50 per cent. since 2003-04 and could have invested more of these resources into increasing available GPs and nurses to local patients but have chosen not to. That continues to be one of the reasons why, since the inception of the national health service, there has been a continuing disparity in the numbers of primary care clinicians practicing between our best and most poorly served areas.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he intends to give to the National Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation on the need to protect the flow of funding to those areas with the greatest health deprivation. [215705]

Mr. Bradshaw: The development of the weighted-capitation formula, used to inform primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations, is continually overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). An independent committee comprising national health service management, general practitioners and academics.

ACRA's objectives are to develop a funding formula for revenue allocations that:

ensures equal opportunity of access to health care for people at equal risk; and

contributes to the reduction in avoidable health inequalities.

ACRA has recently completed a review of the main elements of the formula. The aim is to publish the outcome of the review alongside the announcement of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations, before summer recess.

Health Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce his decision on the reconfiguration of maternity and cardiac services in the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust area. [215279]

Ann Keen: We have asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for advice on the proposed changes to maternity services in Scarborough and acute services and coronary care at Bridlington Hospital. We expect to receive advice from the panel over the proposals in relation to Scarborough shortly, and in relation to Bridlington by the end of July.

We will publish the decisions and the advice we receive from the IRP as soon as we have fully considered the issues. We aim to do this within a month of receiving the IRP's advice.

Health: EU Programme of Community Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which programmes are being funded in the UK under the EU Programme of Community Action in the field of health. [214158]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Union programme of community action in the field of health funds projects which aim to promote health, to improve citizen's health security and to generate and disseminate health information and knowledge. The programme is funded by the EU and administered by the Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA) of the European Commission. Details of the United Kingdom's involvement in the projects funded under the programme can be found at the following PHEA website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/phea/index_en.html

Health: Summertime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on public health of altering the operation of Greenwich Mean Time and British Summer Time. [214086]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

HIV Infection

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on surveillance and epidemiology of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C in each year since 1997. [213654]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on surveillance and epidemiology of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C in 2007

	£ million
HIV	1.65
Hepatitis B	0.37
Hepatitis C	0.36

Notes:

1. The HPA, which came into existence in April 2003, is responsible for national surveillance of infectious diseases. Data before 2003 from predecessor organisations are not available.

2. The information requested is not collected routinely by the HPA in the format requested. The HPA has estimated the national costs of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C surveillance and epidemiology for 2007 using information collected specially for a current evaluation of its surveillance systems. Similar information has not been collected for 2003-06.

Source:

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

HIV Infection: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 523-24W, on HIV infection, how many diagnoses *(a)* as HIV positive and *(b)* of AIDS there have been in Sandwell in the last (i) 30 years and (ii) 12 months. [214146]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information, which is for Sandwell primary care trust, is shown in the following table.

HIV and AIDS diagnoses in Sandwell primary care trust

First diagnosis	*Last 30 years*	*2007*
HIV	69	<5
AIDS	7	<5

Notes:
1. Surveillance for AIDS started in 1982, for HIV in 1984.
2. Figures may include some records of the same individuals, which are unmatched because of difference in the information supplied.
3. Figures for recent years may rise as further reports are received.
4. Data will include individuals who have been infected with HIV outside the United Kingdom, but who have been subsequently diagnosed in the UK.
5. Figures represent persons who were first diagnosed with HIV in the UK within Sandwell, some of these persons may reside outside Sandwell.
6. Data are to the end of December 2007.

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of a patient spending a day in hospital in each of the last five years. [211371]

Mr. Bradshaw: The specific information requested cannot be provided, as the average cost of a patient spending a day in hospital is not collected centrally.

However, information is available on the average cost of a wide range of services provided in hospitals. This information is collected each year through the NHS Reference Costs 2006-07 collection exercise. Copies of the national schedule of NHS Reference Costs for 2006-07 are available in the Library, and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082571

Liver Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of screening for liver disease; and if he will make a statement. [214371]

Ann Keen: We are concerned about the increasing incidence of and mortality from liver disease. We are already taking action on a number of fronts to combat its primary causes—alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity.

We recognise that there is strong support for developing a national plan for liver disease. We are investigating the possibility of developing a programme of work, which would cover health promotion and early detection, as well as the full range of health services.

A full assessment for screening for liver disease would need to be undertaken by the National Screening Committee.

NHS: Drugs

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for the time taken between the authorisation of orphan and ultra orphan drugs and the availability of these drugs to patients; and if he will make a statement. [212244]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no specific assessment of the time difference between the market authorisation of orphan and ultra orphan drugs and the availability of these drugs to patients.

In December 2006, the Government re-issued best practice guidance to the local national health service, which states that funding for treatments should not be withheld simply because guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is unavailable but that decisions should be made on the basis of the available evidence. The guidance also suggests alternative sources of information for NHS organisations to consult in the absence of NICE guidance.

Occupational Therapy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of occupational therapists who qualified in 2007 and who have not been employed by the NHS. [214341]

Ann Keen: On 26 June 2008 there were 64 occupational therapy graduates registered in the newly qualified healthcare professionals pools as looking for their first post in the national health service. Some staff within the pool may have temporary or short-term employment within the NHS. The number who graduated in 2007 is not identified separately.

Ophthalmology

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests for exceptional funding *(a)* in total and *(b)* for ophthalmological procedures have been granted by the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust Exceptions Committee in each of the last three years. [214318]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services on behalf of their population and to make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all available evidence. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of Wiltshire PCT.

Pharmacy

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmacies have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213630]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of pharmacies at constituency level that open and close is not collected centrally by the Department. The Information Centre for health and social care has information by individual English primary care trust (PCT), since March 2004.

Tables have been placed in the Library, which provide the numbers of pharmacies that have opened and closed in the three most recently available financial years and take account of the reorganisation of PCTs in October 2006.

Speech Therapy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of speech and language therapists who qualified in 2007 and have not been employed by the NHS. [214343]

Ann Keen: On 26 June 2008 there were 21 speech and language therapy graduates registered in the newly qualified healthcare professionals pools as looking for their first post in the national health service. Some staff within the pool may have temporary or short-term employment within the NHS. The number who graduated in 2007 is not identified separately.

Stem Cells: Research

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public funding was spent on *(a)* human embryonic stem cell research and *(b)* adult stem cell research in each financial year since 1999. [214575]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1650W, which contains the most recent data available to the Department on stem cell research funding.

Transsexuality: Surgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sex change operations were performed in London in each of the last five years. [214179]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested can be found in the following table.

The table shows the total number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) when an operative procedure for sexual transformation has been performed by hospital providers in London for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07. The information provided is held at trust level.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS

Hospital provider	*FCEs*
2002-03	
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	75
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	
2003-04	
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	83
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	
2004-05	
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	97
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
2005-06	
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	101
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
Whipps Cross Hospital NHS Trust	
2006-07	
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	118
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	

Notes:

Low numbers

1. Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with a '*'

Data quality

2. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

3. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. FCE

A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

5. FCE with an operative procedure

A count of FCEs with an operative procedure is the number of FCEs where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is mentioned in more than one operative procedure field of the record. More procedures are carried out than FCE with an operation. For example, patients under going a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures — removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one — counted in a single finished consultant episode.

6. Changes to coding classifications

Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07. The 2006-07 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in earlier years. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain any growth over time.

7. Further information on the code changes can be found at: www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

University College Hospital: Inspections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were *(a)* made and *(b)* upheld (i) at local level and (ii) by the Health Service Commissioner arising from services provided by University College Hospital in each of the last five years. [214186]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Data are available on number of written complaints at national health service trust level, not at individual hospital level. University College Hospital is one of seven hospitals comprising University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The following table shows the number of written complaints received by the Trust for 2002-03 to 2006-07, the latest available information.

Number of written complaints about hospital and community services, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	374	480	590	745	664

Source
The Information Centre for health and social care.

Information about the number of complaints upheld by the Trust is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue locally.

The health service commissioner (ombudsman) may carry out independent investigations of complaints about the NHS. This is the third stage of the NHS complaints procedure, after local resolution by the NHS organisation concerned and independent review by the Healthcare Commission. As the ombudsman is independent of the NHS, the hon. Member may wish to raise this issue directly with the ombudsman's office.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Council Tax

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the average proportion of household incomes which will be paid in council tax in 2008-09. [214855]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent assessment has been made of the average proportion of household budgets which will be paid in council tax in 2008-09. (214855)

Estimates of tax payments by households are provided in the Office for National Statistics analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The most recent edition was published on the National Statistics website on 25th June 2008 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits, and contained data for the year 2006/07. The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 6,000 households in the UK.

In 2006/07, on average a household in the United Kingdom paid 2.8 per cent of their gross income in Council Tax (or Rates in Northern Ireland). This figure takes into account the deduction of discounts and Council Tax Benefit (or Rate Rebates).

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197153]

Edward Miliband: During the period since my appointment as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and 31 December 2007, I have visited the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London to attend the National Children's Bureau summer reception on 19 June, and the Cabinet Office All Staff conference on 9 July 2007.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214893]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214894]

Phil Hope: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office supports the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative and works with its Facilities Management providers to encourage their suppliers to increase opportunities for more small and local producers to join their supply chains.

Pensioners

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the population in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK were over 60 years of age in (i) 1981, (ii) 1991 and (iii) 2001. [215408]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on what the percentage of the population in (a) Leeds West, (b) Leeds Metropolitan District and (c) the UK were over 60 years of age in (i) 1981, (ii) 1991 and (iii) 2001. (215408)

The table below shows the percentage of population aged 60 and over for the United Kingdom, Leeds and Leeds West for 1981, 1991 and 2001. Figures for the United Kingdom and Leeds are mid-year population estimates; figures for Leeds West are Census data as mid-year estimates are not available for parliamentary constituencies for 1981 and 1991.

Percentage of the population aged 60 and over for the United Kingdom and Leeds

	Percentage of population 60+		
Mid-year	*1981*	*1991*	*2001*
United Kingdom	20	21	21
Leeds	21	21	20
Leeds West[1]	21	21	18

[1] Mid-year population estimates are not available for 1981 and 1991. For comparability census data are supplied for all three years.

Notes:
1. Leeds Metropolitan district had been interpreted as Leeds local authority.
2. Percentages have been calculated to include the age 60.

Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

JUSTICE

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people in his Department and its predecessor worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214135]

Mr. Wills: Employment terms and conditions, including retirement age, is delegated to individual departments and agencies under the Civil Service (Management Functions) Act 1992 as set out in Chapter 11 of the Civil Service Management Code.

The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and National Offender Management Service, including the Prison and Probation Services, and is the host department for the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These organisations still operate separate terms and conditions and therefore the responses are separate.

Former Department of Constitutional Affairs and Agencies

Under the national retirement policy, all employees have the right to retire at the age of 60 and receive an occupational pension. Employees may retire at an earlier age under the provisions of the Superannuation Act 1972 and the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) relating to preserved pension rights. Nothing in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs retirement policy affects the rights of employees under the national retirement policy.

The standard or normal retirement age for all established employees is between 60 and 65, depending on the date of appointment to the employees grade (except for those staff who did not accept the new harmonised terms and conditions in The Deal new pay arrangements for 2007). The senior civil service normal retirement age is currently 65. Legacy arrangements exist for staff who joined prior to 1 April 1999, with retirement ages ranging between 60 and 65.

Normal retirement age for employees appointed on or after 1 April 1999

Pay span	*Normal retirement age*
Bands E-F	65
Band D	62
Spans A-C	60

Judges clerks

The normal retirement age for judges clerks is 65 and they may work until the end of the legal year in which they reach 65. The director of the Supreme Court has discretion to authorise their employment for up to a further three years if their judge wishes them to stay on.

Staff working beyond normal retirement date

The following table sets out the number of staff within the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and its Agencies, who were working beyond the normal retirement age for their grade, on 31 March for each year that accurate figures are available.

	Staff working beyond normal retirement age
31 March 2007	[1]1,100
31 March 2008	657

[1] All magistrates staff above the normal retirement age of 60 are included irrespective of their equivalent government grade.

Her Majesty's Prison Service

The standard, or normal, retirement age of Prison Service staff is currently 65. The normal retirement age has altered over the past five years. The following table sets out the number of staff, on 31 March each year, who were working beyond the normal retirement age for their grade in each of the last five years.

	Staff working beyond normal retirement age
31 March 2004	1,550
31 March 2005	1,732
31 March 2006	1,448
31 March 2007	90
31 March 2008	187

National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform

The normal retirement age for staff is 65, but they have the option to take their pension and retire at the age of 60 and can, exceptionally, work until the age of 70 subject to certain conditions.

	Staff working beyond normal retirement age
31 March 2006	[1]10
31 March 2007	0
31 March 2008	2

[1] Female age 60 and male 65 (prior to October 2006). Staff numbers for year 2005-06 is higher in comparison to other years. Prior to Cabinet Office Employment Equality Regulations October 2006 female retirement age was 60 and therefore are included in the calculation for year 2005-06. We're unable to provide data prior to 2005 because of data migration to a new system.

Fines: Surcharges

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much revenue from the victim surcharge was distributed in each year to 2007-08, broken down by Government Office region; and if he will make a statement. [214294]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice included the receipts collected from the Victims Surcharge, as an appropriation in aid, in its estimates for 2007-08. Under spending plans, funding was committed as follows:

£3 million to the then Department for Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice) to fund Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services. A breakdown by Government Office region of the grants made to individual organisations was given in a written answer by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 272-75W.

£3 million to the Crown Prosecution Service as a contribution to the cost of providing Witness Care Units under the 'No Witness No Justice' initiative. There are 165 Witness Care Units across England and Wales, including all the Government Office regions, funded partly by the Crown Prosecution Service and partly by individual police forces from general budgets. It is not possible to indicate a specific allocation provided to each region from Victims Surcharge receipts as the allocation of funding has been made on a national basis.

£5.6 million through the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, to the Victim Support National Centre to fund the national roll-out of enhanced services to victims and witnesses under the Victim Support Plus initiative. This grant was used by Victim Support to implement the new service delivery model across their business as they saw fit. It is not possible to indicate a specific allocation provided to each region from Victim Surcharge receipts as the allocation of funding has been made on a national basis.

£1.75 million through the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, to the Victims Fund to support victims of sexual violence and abuse, homicide and hate crime. The tables show the distribution of that money in 2007-08.

Victims fund grants made in 2007-08 towards support for victims of sexual violence and abuse

Government Office Region	£
London	
Respond	50,000
One-in-Four	48,510
Lilith Project Eaves Housing	30,104
Step Forward	32,190
Galop	35,122
National Coverage	
CIS'ters	37,088
Voice UK	28,000
Survivors UK	30,000
North East	
Women's Support Network	28,038
Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	41,724
East	
South Essex Rape and Crisis Centre (SERICC)	49,291
HEAL (Helping Everyone Abused Live)	38,039
Colchester Rape Crisis Line	21,431
North West	
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire and Merseyside (Previously Warrington Rape Crisis)	35,770
Manchester Rape Crisis	25,635
South East	
RASAC- Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)	26,000
SurvivorsNetwork	10,406
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre	47,804
No Limits	26,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	45,106
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	44,607
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	49,146
Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service	18,672
South West	
WomanKind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)	41,202
Survivors Swindon	35,900
Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line	12,450
Twelve's Company	35,827
Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall (WRASAC)	32,416
West Midlands	
Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Advise Centre (SARAC)	15,250
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	28,445
Coventry Rape Crisis	35,424
The Rape and Sexual Abuse Violence Project (Birmingham)	21,080
South Wales	
New Pathways	23,660
North Wales	
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (North Wales)	25,525
East Midlands	
Derbyshire Rape Crisis	19,450
Nottingham Rape Crisis	41,108
Sexual abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	17,767
Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis	20,000
Crisis Point	15,368
Walsall Street Teams (The Jigsaw Project)	30,000
Total	1,249,664

Victims fund grants made in 2007-08 towards support for victims of homicide

Government Office Region	£
London	
Victims of Crime Trust	17,724
Victim Support London	25,620
North East	
National Victims Association	25,000
Victim Support and Witness Service	3,980
East	
Barnardos	27,455
Victim Support Bedfordshire	7,313
North West	
Greater Manchester Police	40,000
SAMM Merseyside	18,950
South East	
The Child Bereavement Trust	18,710
Yorkshire and Humberside	
SAMM South Yorkshire	2,868
West Yorkshire Police	13,000
South West	
Winston's Wish	49,380
Total	250,000

Victims fund grants made in 2007-08 towards support for victims of hate crime

Government Office Region	£
London	
Greenwich Action Committee Against Racial Attacks	£29,515
Stonewall	£26,900
Hounslow Community Safety Partnership	£15,000
East	
North Herts People First	£24,475
Bedfordshire Hate Crime Partnership	£15,000
North West	
Liverpool Culture Company	£25,000
Rochdale Borough Council	£7,515
Victim Support Greater Manchester	£20,000

Victims fund—grants made in 2007-08 towards support for victims of hate crime

Government Office Region	£
South East	
Partnership Community Safety Team	£20,000
Victim Support Kent	£3,640
Gender Identity Research and Education Society	£2,750
BMEYPP	£9,190
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership	£15,000
InclusionNorth	£27,200
Bradford Hate Crime Allowance	£15,000
South West	
The Intercom Trust	£28,920
East Midlands	
Northamptonshire Hate Crime Forum	£15,000
Total	300,105[1]

[1] Excess over £250,000 added from Home Office budget.

Judges: Official Residences

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent from the public purse on security measures at residences of judges in the last five years. [214031]

Maria Eagle: Over the last five full financial years, the money spent on security measures at the residences of judges is as set out in the following table. These figures are for the domestic residences of judicial office holders; they do not include judicial lodgings. Figures include VAT.

	£
2003-04	9,806.60
2004-05	25,814.50
2005-06	4,912.83
2006-07	9,057.20
2007-08	3,174.99

So far this financial year, no money has been spent from the public purse on security measures at the residences of judges.

The security of the Justice system and of judicial office-holders is of paramount importance but expenditure on security measures at judicial homes is only undertaken after risk assessment confirms a significant threat.

Juries

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to courts on precautions to be taken to ensure that members of the public undertaking jury service do not have criminal records. [214750]

Maria Eagle: Potential jurors must respond to their summons by completing and returning to the Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) a questionnaire declaring their eligibility and availability for jury service. When the juror has responded to their summons, their details will be checked against the police national computer (PNC).

There will be occasions where a juror does not respond to their summons but does attend court for their jury service. In these cases, courts have been instructed that under Section 2 (5) of the Juries Act 1974 as amended by the Administration of Justice Act 1982, the juror should be asked to complete the confirmation form attached to the jury summons to declare their eligibility on their arrival at court. The court will then ensure a PNC check is undertaken to confirm the person is not disqualified to serve as a juror. If the juror is not qualified to serve, they will be released from jury service.

Parc Young Offender Institution

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 845-7W, on young offender institutions: mental health services, how many young people have been transferred from Parc Young Offender Institution to specialist NHS secure hospital units for under 18 year olds in England. [214431]

Maria Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 316-17W.

Prisoners

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual prison population was in England and Wales in each year since 1990. [214289]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is published in the supplementary table 8.8, "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006", available via the Library of the House and from the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The following table shows the average population (average of end-month data) of all prison establishments in England and Wales between 1990 and 2006:

Prison population[1, 2] 1990 to 2006: England and Wales

	Total
1990	44,975
1991	44,809
1992	44,719
1993	44,552
1994	48,621
1995	50,962
1996	55,281
1997	61,114
1998	65,298
1999	64,771
2000	64,602
2001	66,301
2002	70,778
2003	73,038
2004	74,657
2005	75,979
2006	78,127

[1] Annual average population

[2] Excludes police cells

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prospects Project: Exeter

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were referred to the Prospects Project in Exeter; how many people attended; and how much the project has cost to date. [212843]

Mr. Hanson: The project in Exeter opened in December 2005 and received 279 referrals up until February 2008, of the 279 referrals 132 were admitted to the project. The building costs of the project were £1.814 million and operational costs have been in the region of £1.9 million which includes the cost of termination and compensation costs. Future use of the premises to ensure best use of capital expended is currently under consideration.

Small Claims

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of false claims made in the small claims court and *(b)* the number of such false claims which have led to defendants gaining poor credit ratings in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215342]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice does not hold data explicitly on alleged false claims issued in the civil courts.

However, provisional figures for 2007 indicate that there were 26,203 county court judgments that were 'set aside' following a successful application to the court. These judgments relate to a total of 24,278 claims made for amounts of £5,000 or less. Across all county court claims (regardless of value) there were 988,000 judgments registered with Registry Trust Limited in 2007.

In almost all 'set aside' cases, the initial judgment will have been made in favour of the claimant, and the application to set aside the judgment will have been made by the defendant. A judgment can be set aside for a number of reasons, including where it was originally made in error or where the defendant has paid the amount claimed in full. A 'set aside' judgment does not imply that the initial claim was issued falsely or maliciously.

All county court judgments are registered by Registry Trust Limited and the register is available for searches (upon payment of a fee) by credit reference agencies and other interested parties. However, all registered judgments are automatically cancelled by Registry Trust Limited if they are set aside by a court, and they will therefore not appear in any subsequent register searches.

Witnesses: Protection

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he will take to ensure that a balance is achieved between the need to protect witnesses in the prosecution of dangerous criminals and the defendant's rights when considering new legislation on witness anonymity; [214106]

(2) what plans he has to introduce legislation on witness anonymity; if he will make it his policy to ensure that such anonymity remains an option in certain circumstances; and what his policy is regarding witnesses who are *(a)* children, *(b)* members of the security services and *(c)* police informants. [214112]

Mr. Straw: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I gave on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 514-16.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC External Services: Broadcasting Programmes

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what records he holds of viewing figures for BBC World TV in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by country. [213935]

Andy Burnham: My Department does not hold the viewing figures requested.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what records he holds on the profits derived from the broadcasting of BBC World TV in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and if he will make a statement. [213936]

Andy Burnham: Financial information on BBC World News for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is included in the BBC's annual reports and accounts for those years.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the funding arrangements for BBC World TV. [213937]

Andy Burnham: BBC World News is commercially funded. No licence fee funding is used, as this is not permitted under the terms of the BBC's Charter and Agreement.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the maximum per item expenditure limit for each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies is before a *(a)* Departmental, *(b)* Ministerial and *(c)* HM Treasury sign-off is required. [213833]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: Following approval of their budgets, our non-departmental public bodies have authority to incur expenditure without further reference to this Department, subject to the delegated limits set out in their financial memoranda. I am arranging for copies of these to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Treasury approval is required for: capital projects of £6 million and above, or which exceed limits set out in the relevant financial memoranda where these are higher; gifts and non-statutory contingent liabilities of £100,000 and above; and any expenditure that could set a potentially expensive precedent, cause repercussions for others, or are novel or contentious.

Departmental decisions are normally handled at official level. Ministers might be involved in cases for which there are particular sensitivities.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214131]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The current mandatory retirement age in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is 65.

In the last five years two staff have been allowed to work beyond 65—one in 2005 and one earlier this year.

National Lottery: British Overseas Territories

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether National Lottery outlets may be established in British overseas territories. [214110]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The location of national lottery retailers is a commercial matter for the operator, Camelot, subject to the requirements of its licences and other legal obligations.

Camelot is prohibited by its licences from selling national lottery tickets for draw-based games outside of the European economic area (EEA), unless it has the prior consent of the National Lottery Commission. To date, the National Lottery Commission has not been asked to provide such consent. The operator is not prohibited by its licence from selling national lottery scratchcards outside of the EEA.

Reaching Communities Scheme: Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the sum to be distributed from the Big Lottery Fund in the 12 months to 31 December 2008; and what proportion of such funding will be available to the Reaching Communities scheme. [213638]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lottery grant decisions, and estimates of expenditure, are made independent of Government by distributors like the Big Lottery Fund (BIG). For the 12 month period up to 31 December 2008, England wide, BIG estimates it will:

distribute £423 million to good causes through all programmes; and

distribute £62.3 million through the Reaching Communities programme, this is equal to 14.7 per cent. of the total allocation.

Sport Action Zones

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when and by whom the decision was taken to close sport action zone schemes. [213786]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the 12 sport action zones were established and funded for a five-year period. There was no intention to fund this programme beyond this period. The expectation was that the type of interventions which they promoted would be picked up by mainstream initiatives.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Sport England through the Community Projects Capital Fund in each year since 1999; and what proportion was spent on projects requiring funding under £100,000 in each year. [212983]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The amount spent by Sport England through the Community Projects Capital Fund in each year since 1999, and the proportion that was spent on projects requiring funding under £100,000, as provided by Sport England, is as follows:

Financial year	*Amount spent through Community Projects Capital Fund*	*Proportion spent on projects requiring funding under £100,000 (percentage)*
1999-2000	129,717,514	4.65
2000-01	124,323,327	3.13
2001-02	156,048,744	2.40
2002-03	95,773,582	5.30
2003-04	67,839,120	1.24
2004-05	39,016,890	1.65
2005-06	9,305,108	2.29
2006-07	2,602,871	0.99

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England distributed through its Awards for All fund in each year since 1999. [212987]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it allocated the following amounts through its Awards for All fund in each year since 1999:

Financial year	*Amount allocated (£)*
1999-2000	7,009,847
2000-01	12,129,636
2001-02	13,781,959
2002-03	15,549,974
2003-04	15,788,577
2004-05	7,726,035
2005-06	9,800,311
2006-07	14,192,868
2007-08	11,291,578

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Sport England's funding has been spent on schemes that significantly increased the participation of women and girls in sport since 1999. [212989]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not record information on which groups funding is focused. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate the proportion of Sport England's total funding spent on schemes that significantly increase the participation of women and girls in sport since 1999.

From 2005-06 to 2007-08 the public service agreement for sport was to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by priority groups; one of which was women.

In future, under the new Sport England strategy launched on 10 June, increasing participation by women will continue to be a key priority. To support increases in participation by women and girls Sport England will provide £1.6 million funding for the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation between 2005 and 2009.

In order to receive funding from 2009-11, national governing bodies of sport will be required to develop plans for increasing women's participation in sport.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many awards Sport England made to projects that significantly benefited people from ethnic communities in each year since 1999. [212990]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not record information on which groups funding is focused. Therefore, it is not possible to give a figure for the number of awards made by Sport England to projects that have significantly benefited people from ethnic communities in each year since 1999.

From 2005-06 – 2007-08 the public service agreement for sport was to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by priority groups one of which was ethnic minorities.

In future, under the new Sport England strategy launched on 10 June, increasing participation by ethnic minorities will continue to be a key priority. To support increases in participation by ethnic minorities Sport England has in the last three years provided a total of £1,014,829 funding for sporting equals.

In order to receive funding from 2009-11, national governing bodies of sport will be required to develop plans for increasing ethnic minorities' participation in sport.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many awards Sport England made to projects that significantly benefited disabled people in each year since 1999. [212991]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not record information on which groups funding is focused. Therefore, it is not possible to give a figure for the number of awards made by Sport England to projects that have significantly benefited disabled people in each year since 1999.

From 2005-06 – 2007-08 the public service agreement for sport was to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by priority groups, one of which was disabled people.

In future, under the new Sport England strategy launched on 10 June, increasing participation by disabled people will continue to be a key priority. To support increases in participation by disabled people, Sport England provided £4,111,399 to the English Federation of Disability Sport between 2005 and 2008, and have invested approximately £8,000,000 in the inclusive fitness initiative (IFI) which is a gym-based-project to ensure disabled people can take part in gym based exercise.

In order to receive funding from 2009-11, national governing bodies of sport will be required to develop plans for increasing disabled people's participation in sport.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Sport England's funding has been spent on the World Class programme since 1999. [212998]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 1 April 2006 the responsibility for funding the World Class programme passed to UK Sport. The proportion of Sport England's funding that has been spent on the World Class programme from 1999 to 2006, as provided by Sport England is as follows:

Financial year	*Percentage of funding spent on the World Class programme*
1999-2000	8.92
2000-01	36.93
2001-02	17.83
2002-03	30.01
2003-04	18.54
2004-05	6.14
2005-06	0.33

Swimming

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what procedure local authorities will be able to apply for funds for the provision of free access to swimming pools; and what steps he is taking to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to make such provision. [214038]

Andy Burnham: We are working with the Amateur Swimming Association, the Local Government Association, Sport England and others to develop the arrangements for implementing the scheme. Part of this will involve looking at how the offer can best be delivered depending on local provision.

We will issue guidance to local authorities as early as possible and, in any event, in plenty of time to allow them to prepare for setting budgets in the autumn.

I will make a further statement, outlining progress, before the House rises for summer recess.

Swimming: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions the Government had with *(a)* the London Borough of Sutton, *(b)* other London councils and *(c)* the Local Government Association on free swimming proposals prior to his announcement of the policy. [214121]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to the announcement, Government discussed their proposals for the free swimming offer with the Local Government Association and a number of individual local authorities in London and elsewhere. There were no individual discussions with the London borough of Sutton.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will estimate the cost of reducing the colour television licence fee to the same level as the black and white television licence for people 60 years old and over. [214480]

Andy Burnham: The cost of reducing as proposed the licence fee for those aged 60 and over is estimated to be broadly in the region of £450-£500 million per annum.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the free television licence to all pensioner households. [214481]

Andy Burnham: The cost of extending free television licences to all households containing an individual of state pension age is estimated to be broadly in the region of £600-£650 million per annum.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his representatives have had with (i) the BBC, (ii) ITV, (iii) GMTV and (iv) other television broadcasters in the last 12 months on television broadcaster misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting. [208214]

Andy Burnham: My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell), and I have had regular meetings with BBC, ITV and other broadcasters over the last 12 months during which premium rate telephone service issues have been discussed from time to time. Officials in the Department also have regular meetings with these broadcasters and have discussed these issues from time to time.

Xansa

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has signed with Xansa plc in the last five years. [215125]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not signed any contracts with Xansa plc in the last five years.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments were made by his Department to Xansa plc in each of the last five years. [215129]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made no payments to Xansa plc in the last five years.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 July 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many permanent staff of the House of Commons are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215577]

Nick Harvey: None. The House does not classify any staff as being without posts, and does not have people action teams.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication the House subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215673]

Nick Harvey: The House receives seven copies of the *Morning Star* on sitting days, four copies on non-sitting days and two copies on Saturdays, at a cost of £4.00, £2.20 and £1.00 per day respectively.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the chief executive of the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Mr William O'Sullivan. [213684]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 2 July 2008

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Mr William O'Sullivan. [213684]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200764]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214122]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions has no standard retirement age for staff below the senior civil service.

The Department has, since October 2003, operated a policy where staff could remain in employment after reaching age 65.

Numbers of staff employed by DWP, below the senior civil service, aged 65 and over, since 2003 are as follows:

As at 30 September each year	*Number*
2003	29
2004	124
2005	220
2006	351
2007	511

As at 31 March 2008, the latest date for which data are available, 604 staff in DWP are aged 65 and over.

Background information

At 31 March 2008 DWP had 113,792 staff (102,371 full-time equivalents), of whom 604 (0.5 per cent.) are aged 65 and over. DWP has 4498 staff aged 60-64 inclusive, 3.9 per cent. of the workforce.

Staff can retire, if they wish, when they reach civil service minimum pension age. For most staff that is age 60, but they are not obliged to retire at that age and there is no standard retirement age.

All Departments have delegated authority from Cabinet Office to determine their own retirement age for staff below the senior civil service. DWP was the first Department to abolish mandatory retirement age for all staff below the senior civil service; an important move which supports the Government's agenda of extending working life. 50 per cent. of civil servants now work in Departments which have no retirement age.

Terms and conditions of employment for staff in the senior civil service are managed centrally by the Cabinet Office. DWP does not have delegated authority to determine their retirement age which remains at 65, consistent with the national default retirement age introduced by the Age legislation.

Staff aged 65 and over are treated in exactly the same way as all other staff; no special management arrangements are in place.

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to allow claimants of income support with a disability element to receive weekly payments. [215085]

Mr. Plaskitt: All claims to income support are currently paid on a weekly basis in arrears.

From April 2009 all new claims to income support will be paid fortnightly in arrears in line with employment and support allowance (ESA) which will be introduced in October 2008.

Weekly payments will be considered in exceptional circumstances and for up to 26 weeks. A customer's disability would not, of itself, justify weekly payment.

National Insurance: Romania

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian citizens in each quarter since 1 January 2007. [206261]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 805W. This provides the latest available National Statistics data on national insurance numbers issued to Romanian and Bulgarian nationals.

Pension Credit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much pension credit has cost to administer in each year since October 2003. [213998]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested on the cost of administering pension credit is not available from October 2003. The earliest date from which any information is available is April 2004.

Such information as is available is in the following table:

Pension credit administration costs

	£ million
2004-05	212
2005-06	233
2006-07	190
2007-08	171

Note:
These figures have been taken from the Activity Based Information and its successor Activity Based Management.
Source:
Activity Based Information

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the contract for the Post Office Card Account will be awarded; and if he will make a statement. [211469]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Post Office card account contract was awarded in 2002 and runs from 2003 to 2010.

We are currently in the process of procuring a successor to the existing Post Office card account. An announcement on the successful bidder will be made in accordance with appropriate procurement rules later this year.

Poverty

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* children, *(b)* families, *(c)* pensioners and *(d)* working age households were in persistent poverty in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [211153]

Mr. Timms: Persistent poverty figures are presented for children, pensioners and working age adults in the "Low income Dynamics" publication. Analysis of persistent poverty usually focuses on individuals in persistent poverty, which is defined as an individual being in a household with an income below 60 per cent. of median income in at least three out of four years.

The information is in the tables.

Number and proportion of children, working age adults and pensioners below 60 per cent. of median income in at least three out of four years, before housing costs, Great Britain

	Children		Pensioners		Working age adults	
Before housing costs	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
1997 to 2000	2.0	17	2.0	20	2.5	7
1998 to 2001	2.1	17	2.2	21	2.4	7
1999 to 2002	2.1	17	1.9	19	2.3	7
2000 to 2003	1.9	15	1.9	18	2.3	7
2001 to 2004	1.7	13	1.7	16	2.2	7
2002 to 2005	1.5	11	1.6	15	2.1	6

Source:
DWP analysis of British Household Panel Study, 1991 to 2005.

Number and proportion of children, working age adults and pensioners below 60 per cent of median income in at least three out of four years, After Housing Costs, Great Britain

	Children		Pensioners		Working age adults	
After housing costs	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
1997 to 2000	2.6	22	2.2	22	3.2	9
1998 to 2001	2.6	22	2.2	22	3.1	9
1999 to 2002	2.6	21	1.9	18	3.0	9
2000 to 2003	2.4	19	1.7	16	2.8	8
2001 to 2004	2.2	17	1.6	15	2.8	8
2002 to 2005	2.2	17	1.4	13	2.8	8

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on data from the longitudinal British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) run by the university of Essex Institute for Social and Economic Research.
2. The same methodology is employed here as in the DWP publication, "Low Income Dynamics 1991 to 2005". The proportions provided above are taken from this publication.
3. The table shows the number and percentage of each group who are below 60 per cent. of median income in at least three out of four years in a series of consecutive four year periods. This is the most common definition of persistent poverty.
4. The table presents results on the persistence of low income on both before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC) measures. However the housing costs in the BHPS differ from ones used in the households below average income publication. The BHPS defines housing costs simply as weekly gross housing costs recorded on the BHPS. Rents include service and water charges, but these are excluded from the housing costs of mortgage payers. In addition, BHPS includes both repayments and interest in the housing costs of mortgage payers whereas HBAI excludes repayments from housing costs.
5. Numbers of children, pensioners and working age adults below 60 per cent. of median income in at least three out of four years have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of children, pensioners and working age adults have been rounded to the nearest percentage point

Source:
DWP analysis of British Household Panel Study, 1991 to 2005.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children were living in working households earning less than 60 per cent. of the median income in each year since 1997. [211138]

Mr. Timms: The information is in the following table.

Number and proportion of all children living in working households below 60 per cent. contemporary median household income

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage of all children*	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage of all children*
GB				
1997-98	1.7	13	2.2	17
1998-99	1.7	13	2.3	18
1999-2000	1.6	13	2.2	17
2000-01	1.5	12	2.1	16
2001-02	1.5	12	2.0	16
UK				
2002-03	1.5	12	2.1	16
2003-04	1.5	11	1.9	15
2004-05	1.5	11	2.0	15
2005-06	1.5	12	2.2	17
2006-07	1.6	13	2.3	18

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on households below average income data which is sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. Net incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
5. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
9. A working household has been defined as a household where at least one adult is in work.
10 Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partners and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one or more families.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many extra-statutory payments due to a loss of statutory entitlement were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Child Support Agency, *(c)* Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus, *(d)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(e)* the Pension Service, *(f)* the Rent Service and *(g)* the Debt Management Service was in each year since 1997; and what the (i) average value and (ii) total amount of payments in each year was. [205478]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department is focused on providing high standards of customer service and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of any customer complaints. In the event that departmental error or delay may have an adverse effect on a customer, the Department operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress.

The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Extra statutory payments due to loss of statutory entitlement:

	Payments	*Amount (£)*	*Average (£)*
JCP			
2007-08	400	626,500	1,570
2006-07	550	654,700	1,190
2005-06	750	880,000	1,170
2004-05	525	762,000	1,450
2003-04	1,550	1,865,000	1,200
2002-03	2,000	2,972,700	1,490
DCS			
2007-08	175	168,700	960
2006-07	175	173,500	990
2005-06	200	262,800	1,310
2004-05	150	344,300	2,290
2003-04	150	300,000	2,000
2002-03	125	21[illegible],800	1,750
TPS			
2007-08	75	204,500	2,750
2006-07	150	481,900	3,210
2005-06	225	728,800	3,240
2004-05	325	723,800	2,230
2003-04	600	645,600	1,080
2002-03	600	802,000	1,340

Notes

1 DWP's customers interact with the Department through its agencies/businesses and any extra statutory payments due to loss of statutory entitlement are made at the agency/business level, rather than centrally

2 Extra statutory payments are made to provide redress where due to misadvice or other error a person loses the opportunity to receive a benefit

3 Number of payments rounded to the nearest 25, the amount rounded to the nearest £1,000 and the average rounded to the nearest £10

4 No payments are made by the Child Support Agency as there is no statutory entitlement to child support maintenance

5 Debt Management is not an Executive agency of DWP. A consolatory payment awarded because of error by Debt Management is paid by Jobcentre Plus.

6 The Rent Service (TRS) was formed in October 1999 as an Executive agency of the Department of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. TRS became an Executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001. The Rent Service has not made any consolatory payments.

7 The Pension Service, Jobcentre Plus and the Disability and Carers Service were formed in 2002, prior to this,they were part of the Benefits Agency (BA).

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ex-gratia payments due to *(a)* delay and *(b)* actual financial loss were made by (i) his Department, (ii) the Child Support Agency, (iii) Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus, (iv) the Disability and Carers Service, (v) the Pension Service, (vi) the Rent Service and (vii) the Debt Management Service in each year since 1997; and what the (A) average value and (B) total amount of each type of payment made in each year was. [205479]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department is focused on providing high standards of customer service and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of any customer complaints. In the event that departmental error or delay may have an adverse effect on a customer, the Department operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress.

The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Ex-gratia payments due to delay:

	Payments	*Amount (£)*	*Average (£)*
CSA			
2007-08	1,950	400,000	200
2006-07	1,925	357,400	190
2005-06	2,100	189,300	90
2004-05	1,725	135,200	80
2003-04	800	145,800	180
2002-03	725	158,500	220
2001-02	925	189,400	200
2000-01	825	175,100	210
1999-2000	725	250,100	340
JCP			
2007-08	1,550	779,000	500
2006-07	1,650	779,200	470
2005-06	2,100	852,700	410
2004-05	2,850	776,900	270
2003-04	7,975	1,486,200	190
2002-03	7,125	1,566,800	220
DCS			
2007-08	1,150	479,500	420
2006-07	1,000	454,800	450
2005-06	1,125	934,200	830
2004-05	1,650	489,900	300
2003-04	1,050	295,800	280
2002-03	700	264,000	380
TPS			
2007-08	4,925	1,096,500	220
2006-07	6,325	1,902,400	300
2005-06	16,625	6,648,700	400
2004-05	9,175	2,262,400	250
2003-04	1,750	436,400	250
2002-03	2,400	615,500	260

Ex-gratia payments due to actual financial loss:

	Payments	*Amount £*	*Average £*
CSA			
2007-08	4,725	3,400,600	720
2006-07	4,725	2,448,900	520
2005-06	5,925	3,096,900	520
2004-05	7,125	2,440,400	340
2003-04	4,900	1,362,500	280
2002-03	5,875	1,313,700	220
2001-02	6,325	1,633,500	260
2000-01	5,225	1,907,100	360
1999-2000	3,700	1,788,100	480
JCP			
2007-08	1,000	145,200	140
2006-07	1,675	235,900	140
2005-06	1,800	206,500	110
2004-05	2,200	220,000	100
2003-04	725	242,800	330
2002-03	825	227,300	270
DCS			
2007-08	150	14,700	100
2006-07	150	17,500	120
2005-06	150	32,200	220
2004-05	225	28,000	120
2003-04	325	35,400	110
2002-03	225	44,200	200
TPS			
2007-08	550	153,700	280
2006-07	450	113,300	250
2005-06	525	84,700	160
2004-05	950	124,300	130
2003-04	550	90,500	160
2002-03	500	52,300	100

Notes:

1. DWP's customers interact with the Department through its agencies/businesses and any ex- ratia payments due to delay and actual financial loss are made at the agency/business level, rather than centrally.

2. Delay: made for the loss of the use of money, arising where payments have been unreasonably delayed (payment is made in the form of interest on the arrears due). The percentage rate for calculating compensation is the same for all benefits. The Building Societies Commission provided the rate on a monthly basis until January 2008. Since then the rate is obtained from the Bank of England.

3. Actual financial loss: made in respect of losses incurred by customers as a direct result of agency error.

4. Number of payments rounded to the nearest 25. Amount rounded to the nearest £1,000 and the average rounded to the nearest £10.

5. Debt Management is not an Executive agency of DWP. A consolatory payment awarded because of error by Debt Management is paid by Jobcentre Plus.

6. The Rent Service (TRS) was formed in October 1999 as an Executive agency of the Department of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. TRS became an Executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001. The Rent Service has not made any consolatory payments.

7. The Pension Service, Jobcentre Plus and the Disability and Carers Service were formed in 2002, prior to this they were part of the Benefits Agency (BA).

Social Security Benefits: Part Time Employment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have had benefits withdrawn or reduced as a result of taking up part-time work in *(a)* Leeds West, *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(c)* the UK in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [215397]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

State Retirement Pensions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals are in receipt of a state pension. [214817]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at November 2007 there were around 11.98 million individuals receiving a state pension.

Note:

Amount has been rounded to the nearest 10,000

Source:

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

WALES

Youth Offending Teams

7. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the effectiveness of youth offending teams in Wales. [214280]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Our Welsh Youth Justice Teams are working hard to direct young people in trouble away from the formal youth justice system so that formal interventions are reserved for those who really need them.

GP Registration

8. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on patients resident in England of GPs registered in Wales. [214281]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues, including the delivery of health care.

Hospital Waiting Times

9. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on hospital waiting times for cross-border in-patients. [214283]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I regularly meet with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services, when we discuss a range of issues, including the significant fall in waiting times in Wales over the past 10 years.

Post Office Card Account

10. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the future of the Post Office Card Account in Wales. [214284]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues to discuss a range of issues including the Post Office card account.

The Department for Work and Pensions is currently in the process of securing a successor to the current Post Office card account. I understand that an announcement will be made later this year.

Neighbourhood Policing

11. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the operation of neighbourhood policing in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [214285]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I welcome the fact that since April Welsh communities have been fully covered with neighbourhood policing teams dedicated to tackling their local crime and antisocial behaviour priorities. This achievement follows three years of hard work by forces and police authorities.

Fuel Prices

12. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with representatives of businesses in Wales on the economic impact of high fuel prices. [214286]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In May I met with representatives of the Freight Transport Association Wales to discuss various issues including fuel prices.

Cross-Border Health Provision

13. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on cross-border health issues. [214287]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend has regular meetings with the First Minister when he discusses a range of issues, including health issues affecting cross border areas.

We welcome the work of the Welsh Affairs Committee on the delivery of health services in cross border areas, and look forward to seeing its report in due course.

Legislation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on procedures for introducing legislation at its request in Westminster. [214288]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues, including procedures for introducing legislation to Parliament. I am also currently undertaking a review of scrutiny arrangements for Welsh legislation.

We are committed to giving the National Assembly for Wales new law-making powers. We brought forward the Government of Wales Act 2006 and we are working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government to implement its provisions.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215558]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Ministers and Officials in the Wales Office made a total of 16 domestic flights in the financial year 2007-08 at a cost of £2,235.44.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what IT contracts his Department has entered into in the last two years. [215135]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department's main IT services are provided through the Ministry of Justice, but the Wales Office let a contract to host our website to Eduserv on 1 December 2007, at a cost of £4,659 initially and £6,936 per year for two years.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff have access to his Department's IT infrastructure at their home. [216383]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Eight members of staff have laptops and related equipment which enables them to work from home, and 11 members of staff have blackberry devices which give them limited access to some facilities only.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215240]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The amount claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers is:

	£
2004-05	2,520.71
2005-06	2,037.60
2006-07	2,671.39
2007-08	1,462.17

Records kept before 2004 do not separate these costs, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All official travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code and the Civil Service management code.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date the euro changeover plan of his Department was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [215528]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government communication network. [215114]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has three members of staff who are classified as Government communicators, and all three have access to the Government communication network. The Wales Office does not have any agencies.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215667]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the implications for Wales of the Government's strategy for the disposal of radioactive waste. [214282]

Mr. Paul Murphy: There have been detailed discussions between UK Government Departments and the Welsh Assembly Government in preparation of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper.

The Welsh position is set out in the White Paper and we are pleased that the Assembly Government continues to play a full part in the programme. This will ensure the implementation of a framework appropriate to the needs of Wales and that the interests of Wales are taken into account.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213758]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213759]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Some timber was used as part of maintenance works undertaken in my Departments London office, which were carried out between 2004 and 2007. The cost of this element could not be separated from the wider maintenance contract.

All timber used by my Departments managing agents, in carrying out maintenance work since 2004, is from a sustainable source.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the cost was of the recent refurbishment of the Electoral Commission's offices in London. [215506]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the recent refurbishment work on its offices in London was undertaken by the landlord of the building. The works were funded directly by the landlord and as such, the costs are unknown to the Electoral Commission. No costs were incurred by the Electoral Commission.

Departmental Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what relocation benefits the Electoral Commission has offered to staff or new staff taking up a post in its new regional offices. [215492]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not offered or paid any relocation benefits to staff taking up post in its regional offices.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many permanent staff of the Electoral Commission are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215576]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that none of its staff are classed as without posts and that the Commission does not have any staff who are part of a people action team.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff of the Electoral Commission in the last 24 months. [215616]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its records show that in the last 24 months, five office building passes have been reported lost by staff of the Commission.

SCOTLAND

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what IT contracts his Department has entered into in the last two years. [215136]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly enter into any IT contracts.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212316]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not commissioned any independent inquiries in the last five years.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many permanent staff in his Department are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215582]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. As at 31 March 2008, the Office had a small number of staff awaiting reassignment to their parent Department; however, to protect the identity of individual staff, data relating to less than five people are not disclosed.

Identity and Passport Service

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed transfer of services from the regional Identity and Passport Service Office in Glasgow on *(a)* employment and *(b)* access to passport services in Scotland. [212441]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The decision has not yet been made. The Identity and Passport Service is in consultation with the PCS (trade union) on the proposal at this time. A decision is not expected until after the period of consultation.

Access to passport services in Scotland will not be affected. There are no plans in the immediate future to remove counter services. First time applicants can attend interviews in Scotland and emergency passports will continue to be issued to customers in Glasgow.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of the Church Commissioners in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215562]

Sir Stuart Bell: This information is not available but I can assure the hon. Gentleman that the Commissioners and the other National Church Institutions are committed to the Church's "Shrinking the Footprint" campaign. I am therefore confident that domestic flights are undertaken only rarely by the Commissioners' staff or their representatives.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Blue Rubicon

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* London Resilience has made to Blue Rubicon; at what cost; and for what purpose. [215065]

Mr. Dhanda: For details of payments made to Blue Rubicon before 7 February 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the Freedom Of Information request published on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2008/publicrelationsfirms/

Since 7 February 2008, the Department has paid Blue Rubicon the sum of £222,244.75 for public relations services to continue the promotion of the measures contained in the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, including promotion of Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

No payments have been made to Blue Rubicon by London Resilience.

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were in each council tax valuation band in each region of England on the latest date for which figures are available. [215744]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis).

Councillors: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councillors are engaged in the Thames Gateway project; what positions they hold; and how much each received in expenses from the Thames Gateway organisation in each of the last three years. [213915]

Caroline Flint: There are 18 local authorities directly involved in the Thames Gateway including Essex and Kent county councils, plus the Greater London Authority and two Urban Development Corporations who have planning powers. I have provided information only on those organisations that attend the ministerially chaired Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership who are represented by local authority members. This list represents the current membership. When an individual cannot attend, a substitute from the organisation they are representing usually attends, who may be a councillor.

Name	*Organisation represented*	*Local authority role*
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Renaissance Partnership	Leader, Medway Council
Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Forward	Leader, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Castle	East of England Regional Assembly	Cabinet Member, Essex County Council
Cllr Malcolm Buckley	Basildon Renaissance Partnership	Leader, Basildon District Council
Cllr Pam Challis	Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership	Leader, Castle Point Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Invest Bexley	Leader, Bexley Council
Cllr Chris Roberts	Woolwich Regeneration Agency	Leader , Greenwich Council
Cllr Conor McAuley	TG London Partnership	Executive Member for Regeneration, Newham Council
Cllr Keith Mitchell	South East England Regional Assembly	Leader, Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent Thameside Delivery Board	Cabinet Member, Kent County Council
Boris Johnson	Greater London Authority	Mayor of London

Any more information about an individual councillor's involvement in the Thames Gateway is not held by the Department. The councillors listed do not receive any expenses from the Department for their involvement in the Thames Gateway and any expenses councillors might be entitled to are expected to be claimed from their local authority.

Communities and Local Government also sponsors the Thurrock and London Thames Gateway Development Corporations. There are four councillors on the board of the TTGDC and their remuneration—as published in the annual reports is as follows:

			£000
TTGDC	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cllr V Liddiard	11,806	11,973	12,121
Cllr G. Hague	5,903	11,973	12,121
Cllr T Hipsey		6,409	12,121
Cllr J Kent	8,854	6,442	12,121
Y Gupta	984		
A Smith	26,306		

Where reduced amounts are shown the members concerned were not employed throughout the year and their salaries were earned pro-rata to this figure.

There are six councillors on the board of the LTGDC and their remuneration—as published in the annual reports is as follows:

£000

LTGDC	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cllr S. Kellar	10-15	10-15	10-15
Cllr C. McAuley	10-15	10-15	10-15
Cllr M. White	10-15	10-15	10-15
Cllr M. Keith	10-15	5-10	
Cllr G. Nicholson	10-15	10-15	10-15
Cllr O. Ahmed			10-15
Cllr J. Biggs	30-35	30-35	35-40

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the conferences hosted by her Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211695]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has hosted the following conferences within the last two years.

Date	*Event*	*Cost (£)*
17 August 2006	Respect launch	65,000
October 2006	Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) annual seminar 2006	4,186
5 December 2006	100 Day on reception	1,100
29 January 2007	Towards the Planning White Paper conference	51,230
April/June 2007	Planning Policy Statement 3—Housing regional communication events	10,000
27 July 2007	Planning Delivery Grant Evaluation and Planning White Paper Roll out event	173
September 2007	Analysis for all one day event 2007	1,500
November 2007	Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) annual seminar 2007	5,170
14 November 2007	Respect and Communities event	60,000
26 February 2008	Incident recording system conference held on	8,682
28 May 2008	Equality and Diversity conference	24,200

Departmental Marketing

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media of each of her Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214675]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006. Available costs for our public information campaigns are set out in Chapter 10 of the Department's Annual Reports for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Costs for information campaigns conducted by the Department's predecessor Departments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East Midlands Development Agency

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money the East Midlands Development Agency has received from her Department and its predecessors in each of the financial years for which figures are available. [214773]

John Healey: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is the departmental sponsor of the Regional Development Agencies and allocates the Regional Development Agency single budget via a funding formula.

The Regional Development Agency single budget is pooled from six contributing Government Departments.

The following table shows East Midlands Development Agency's annual budgets.

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	176
2006-07	169
2005-06	168
2004-05	119
2003-04	117
2002-03	101
2001-02	86
2000-01	67
1999-2000	41

Floods: Property Development

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to review current planning applications and assess flood risk and flood defences in respect of any house building, as laid out in Planning Policy Statement No. 25; and if she will make a statement. [214078]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is not proposed to review current planning applications for housing development in flood risk areas. Local planning authorities have responsibility for deciding these in accordance with the local development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In arriving at their decisions, account must be taken of all relevant Government policy, including Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk", and all representations made, including any from the Environment Agency.

Sir Michael Pitt's recent report "The Pitt Review: Learning lessons from the 2007 floods" (June 2008) included a review of the effectiveness and implementation of the Government's Planning Policy Statement 25. In his interim report "Learning lessons from the 2007 floods: Interim Report" (December 2007) he concluded

> "the policy in PPS25 is sound but needs to be rigorously applied by planning authorities".

In his final report and conclusions he endorsed this, saying

> "the operation and effectiveness of PPS25 and the Environment Agency's powers to challenge development should be kept under review and strengthened if and when necessary".

We are working closely with stakeholders to get PPS25 policy delivered on the ground. We also plan to examine whether there are any barriers to delivery which may be hindering local authorities from implementing PPS25.

Mayors: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local authorities in Lancashire seeking to establish an elected mayoral system. [214116]

Mr. Dhanda: I am not aware of any such representations from local authorities in Lancashire.

Regional Ministers: Manpower

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent members of staff work for regional Ministers in their capacity as such Ministers; and what the pay scale is of each member of staff. [215743]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 446-50W, by the Secretary of State to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May).

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements she plans to make to respond to questions from hon. Members during consultation on her proposed amendments to the draft South East Plan following the adjournment of the House on 22 July; and if she will make a statement. [214488]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State will make an announcement on publication of the proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East. This will include the arrangements and procedures for the 12 week consultation period which will be managed by the Government Office for the South East. During the parliamentary summer recess, Members' questions will be answered in the normal way.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Thames Gateway project budget for *(a)* hospitality and *(b)* communications was in each of the last five years. [212191]

Caroline Flint: The Communities and Local Government actual spend for Thames Gateway hospitality in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial Year	*Budget (£)*
2007	3,193
2006	23,977
2005	1,714
2004	350
2003	0
Total	29,234

The Communities and Local Government actual spend for Thames Gateway public, business and stakeholder communications in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial Year	*Budget (£)*
2007	847,993
2006	385,818
2005	1,417
2004	0
2003	0
Total	1,235,228

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* muggings, *(c)* assaults and *(d)* thefts which took place in England and Wales in the week commencing (i) 24 March and (ii) 31 March 2008. [214447]

Mr. Coaker: No estimates have been made. The Home Office collects recorded crime statistics on a monthly basis only. The latest data covering the financial year 2007-08 will be published on 17 July 2008.

Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices in respect of alleged parking infringements were issued by police forces in each year since 1993 to date. [214728]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Available information held by the Ministry of Justice, from 1993 to 2006 (which are the latest available) is provided in the following tables. These data relate to 'obstruction, waiting and parking' offences. They do not record parking contraventions in areas when parking has been decriminalised and the police no longer offer fixed penalties. 2007 data should be available next year.

Table A: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] by the police for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[2, 3], England and Wales, 1993 to 2001

	Number of tickets
1993	3,383,011
1994	2,698,349
1995	2,270,732
1996	2,282,481
1997	2,199,242
1998	2,118,077
1999	1,808,153
2000	1,595,360
2001	1,325,049

Table B: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] by the police for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[2, 3], England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[4]

	Number of tickets
2002	1,165,006
2003	1,043,006
2004	882,590

Table B. Fixed penalty notices issued[1] by the police for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[2, 3], England and Wales, 2002 to 2006

	Number of tickets
2005	573,497
2006	489,948

[1] Paid i.e. no further action.

[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss. 173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175(2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190 Highway Act 1835 ss. 72 and 78; RTA 1988 ss. 19 and 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 5 (1), 8, 32-36 and 45-53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 Regs. 101 and 103; Transport Act 2000 part III; Metropolitan Police Act 1839 s. 54 (1)

[3] Does not include decriminalised parking enforcements (DPE).

Note

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons have been for the removal and destruction of DNA samples from the National DNA database following a request to do so from the person from whom the DNA was taken; and if she will make a statement. [197287]

Meg Hillier: Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), the police have the power indefinitely to retain profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) derived from samples taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence and detained in a police station, regardless of whether they are charged or convicted. While the decision on whether to agree to a request from an individual to have their DNA profile removed from the NDNAD lies with the chief officer of the police force which took the sample, profiles will normally be retained unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Given that a number of factors may be applicable to each individual decision, there is no specific breakdown of the reasons for the removal and destruction of DNA samples from the NDNAD following a request to do so from the person from whom the DNA was taken.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has a national Criminal Records Office (ACRO), based in Hampshire, which deals with matters relating to criminal records, DNA and fingerprints on behalf of chief officers. In the area of removals from the NDNAD, they assist chief officers in arriving at a decision, by providing examples of how requests have been dealt with in other police forces and offering advice. However, the final decision remains with chief officers, who are not obliged to refer cases to ACRO or to agree with its recommendations.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people without a criminal conviction have made representations to her Department to have their names removed from the national DNA database. [202014]

Meg Hillier: Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the decision on whether to agree to a request from an individual to have their DNA profile, fingerprints and associated records removed from police databases lies with the chief officer of the police force which took the DNA sample and fingerprint records, so requests from people without a criminal conviction go to chief officers, and not the Home Office. No central records are kept of the number of such requests made, and the number of those which are from people without a criminal conviction.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the National DNA Database Annual Report for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [213044]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 June 2008]:* A precise date for the publication of the National DNA Database Annual Report for 2006-07 is not yet available, but it is expected to be published in the near future. The timescale for the production of the Annual Report for 2007-08 is shortly to be considered by the National DNA Database Strategy Board.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of men and boys trafficked into the United Kingdom for suspected involvement in the sex industry in the latest period for which figures are available. [214531]

Mr. Coaker: To date there has been no estimate made of the number of men and boys trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Operations Pentameter 1 and 2 have focussed on trafficking for sexual exploitation irrespective of gender and the analysis of those operations will inform our estimate of the scale and nature of the problem.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies and organisations have given her Department and the UK Human Trafficking Centre free or reduced rates to run campaign materials against human trafficking. [214538]

Mr. Coaker: There have been no companies that have given the Home Office free or reduced rates for campaign materials on human trafficking.

Principals Agency in Leeds provided a reduced rate to the UKHTC for design work the agency carried out on the Blue Blindfold campaign and CBS Outdoor provided reduced rates for displaying posters on buses.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and the UK Human Trafficking Centre spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* mounting the Blue Blindfold Campaign; and which costs of the campaign were met from the budget of (i) the UK Human Trafficking Centre and (ii) her Department centrally. [214540]

Mr. Coaker: There were no commissioning costs incurred in respect of the Blue Blindfold campaign.

A total of £20,994 has been spent on the campaign so far on production of materials and placing of the posters on buses. Of this total, £13,000 was met by the Home Office, with the remainder being met from the UKHTC's budget.

Human Trafficking: Sex Establishments

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department is conducting with the newspaper industry over the placing of advertisements by establishments offering sexual services in newspapers; and whether her Department has made any estimate of the number of trafficked women potentially working in such establishments. [214628]

Mr. Coaker: In November 2007 I met with representatives from the newspaper and advertising industries on this issue. The Newspaper Society have reviewed guidance it issues to publishers to ensure it fully reflects concerns about human trafficking for sexual exploitation. In January the Government Equalities Office also published Women Not for Sale, which raised the issue of the links between this type of advertisement, and the trafficking of women into the UK for the purposes of prostitution.

There has been no estimate on the number of trafficked women who are involved in related activity.

Identity Cards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proposed method for the collection of fingerprints for the identity card scheme is. [202450]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The precise manner of enrolment of fingerprint biometrics has yet to be finalised for identity cards to be issued to British citizens under the Identity Cards Act 2006. However, it is intended that 10 plain fingerprints should be recorded and stored on the National Identity Register.

This will be compatible with fingerprint biometrics recorded for identity cards to be issued to foreign nationals under the UK Borders Act 2007.

Parking Attendants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* traffic enforcement officers, *(b)* traffic wardens and *(c)* council parking attendants were operating in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [214743]

Mr. Coaker: Available data for the numbers of police officers whose primary role is within the traffic function and for the numbers of traffic wardens are given in the following tables. Data on local authority parking attendants and civil enforcement officers are not collected centrally.

Police officers FTE whose main function is 'Traffic'[1], 1996-97 to 2006-07

Full-time equivalent[2]

	1996-97[3]	*1997-98[3]*	*1998-99[4]*	*1999-2000[4]*	*2000-01[4]*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset		—	—	—	—	216	222	228	215	148
Bedfordshire		—	—	—	—	75	80	80	81	68
Cambridgeshire		—	—	—	—	85	99	101	99	96
Cheshire		—	—	—	—	194	200	194	85	91
Cleveland		—	—	—	—	64	73	2	61	72
Cumbria		—	—	—	—	107	110	108	111	114
Derbyshire		—	—	—	—	107	121	116	119	110
Devon and Cornwall		—	—	—	—	192	198	211	215	225
Dorset		—	—	—	—	91	86	82	81	80
Durham		—	—	—	—	111	119	108	105	100
Dyfed Powys		—	—	—	—	136	105	141	143	136
Essex		—	—	—	—	241	242	243	243	231
Gloucestershire		—	—	—	—	62	66	67	73	67
Greater Manchester		—	—	—	—	406	392	359	342	352
Gwent		—	—	—	—	93	95	96	102	95
Hampshire		—	—	—	—	248	246	244	240	237
Hertfordshire		—	—	—	—	150	151	149	149	145
Humberside		—	—	—	—	123	119	225	181	100
Kent		—	—	—	—	104		122	116	109
Lancashire		—	—	—	—	198	187	190	197	184
Leicestershire		—	—	—	—	92	95	85	77	72
Lincolnshire		—	—	—	—	90	89	96	102	100
London, City of		—	—	—	—	24	24	28	24	23
Merseyside		—	—	—	—	125	119	115	138	150
Metropolitan Police		—	—	—	—	583	592	1029	603	611
Norfolk		—	—	—	—	120	121	107	112	110
Northamptonshire		—	—	—	—	70	71	65	63	63
Northumbria		—	—	—	—	245	253	165	167	172
North Wales		—	—	—	—	115	114	76	81	98
North Yorkshire		—	—	—	—	151	138	101	97	99
Nottinghamshire		—	—	—	—	26	121	133	134	139
South Wales		—	—	—	—	243	245	243	243	252
South Yorkshire		—	—	—	—	180	127	134	141	143
Staffordshire		—	—	—	—	50	49	58	28	35

Police officers FTE whose main function is 'Traffic'[1], 1996-97 to 2006-07

Full-time equivalent[2]

	1996-97[3]	1997-98[3]	1998-99[4]	1999-2000[4]	2000-01[4]	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	68	72	76	80	77
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	108	110	107	99	87
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	164	163	163	160	169
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	259	259	245	236	237
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	103	103	93	97	93
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	292	115	117	116	129
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	384	405	393	401	383
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	320	314	317	343	324
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	91	96	93	13	89
Total	—		7,525	7,238	7,005	6,902	6,706	7,104	6,511	6,412

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function Includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The function does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Data are unavailable for 1996-97 and 1997-98.

[4] Data by police force area are not available centrally.

Traffic warden strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1998 to 31 March 2007

Police force	1998	1999	2000	2001[3]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	114	115	59	48	44	43	34	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	26	10	9	3	3	2	2	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	33	38	35	38	36	35	17	0	0	0
Cheshire	35	31	25	20	20	19	15	17	0	0
Cleveland	23	18	13	10	12	7	8	0	0	0
Cumbria	21	16	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	53	50	50	44	50	48	43	25	21	12
Devon and Cornwall	115	113	119	110	101	103	102	96	89	47
Dorset	49	42	41	37	12	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	22	21	22	19	19	15	4	0	0	0
Essex	123	121	102	82	59	38	21	8	7	9
Gloucestershire	38	35	35	30	30	31	21	16	14	9
Greater Manchester	189	160	96	88	87	88	88	90	71	32
Hampshire	65	68	53	53	31	25	23	16	7	6
Hertfordshire	55	44	38	45	42	38	9	0	0	0
Humberside	59	52	53	51	51	48	46	45	38	20
Kent	52	31	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	110	101	94	87	84	50	17	2	0	0
Leicestershire	75	70	67	65	72	61	51	26	5	1
Lincolnshire	26	22	20	21	21	21	18	20	14	10
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	115	114	106	93	63	52	43	10	5	38
Metropolitan police	1,166	945	817	689	632	687	505	449	411	317
Norfolk	43	40	37	33	34	33	31	28	26	22
Northamptonshire	25	23	16	11	7	7	5	4	2	1
Northumbria	78	70	70	72	71	59	56	51	48	32
North Yorkshire	23	23	19	12	10	0	10	0	6	3
Nottinghamshire	61	65	58	39	30	29	33	12	4	1
South Yorkshire	80	76	62	71	77	68	37	18	0	0
Staffordshire	35	31	24	17	12	10	1	0	0	0
Suffolk	32	33	31	29	29	25	25	20	18	0
Surrey	25	21	16	25	20	17	8	5	3	0
Sussex	132	113	110	98	62	61	67	62	48	48
Thames Valley	103	95	58	45	51	42	36	24	16	8
Warwickshire	12	10	8	9	9	9	8	4	5	3
West Mercia	35	31	30	23	21	15	13	9	10	6
West Midlands	218	192	175	128	78	74	72	66	51	24
West Yorkshire	129	118	116	107	99	98	85	42	26	12
Wiltshire	19	20	15	7	8	7	5	1	0	0
Dyfed Powys	19	15	14	15	12	13	10	10	8	10
Gwent	33	32	30	28	28	27	25	21	22	23
North Wales	16	15	12	12	8	7	5	4	2	1

Traffic warden strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1998 to 31 March 2007

Police force	1998	1999	2000	2001[3]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
South Wales	109	108	100	104	100	99	92	82	77	72
Total England and Wales	3,788	3,342	2,855	2,516	2,233	2,108	1,688	1,281	1,053	764

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

Passports: Postal Services

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations she held before taking the decision to end postal passport services at the regional Identity and Passport Service Office in Glasgow. [212399]

Meg Hillier: The decision has not yet been made. The Identity and Passport Service is in consultation with the PCS (trade union) at this time. A decision is not expected until after the end of the period of consultation. All services currently available to Scottish customers in passport services will remain available.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Scotland and *(b)* Scottish Executive on access to passport services in Scotland before the decision to end postal passport services at the regional Identity and Passport Service Office in Glasgow. [212400]

Meg Hillier: The decision has not yet been made. The Identity and Passport Service is in consultation with the PCS (trade union) on the proposal at this time. A decision is not expected until after the period of consultation. No specific consultation has been planned with the Secretary of State for Scotland, or the Scottish Executive at this time, since service delivery to the customer will be unaffected by the change.

Theft: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to prevent the theft of *(a)* red diesel and *(b)* household fuel from rural areas; [214306]

(2) how many thefts of *(a)* red diesel and *(b)* household fuel there were from rural areas in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [214307]

(3) what representations she has received on thefts of *(a)* red diesel and *(b)* household fuel from rural areas; and if she will make a statement; [214309]

(4) what assessment she has made of the role of neighbourhood policing in preventing theft of *(a)* red diesel and *(b)* household fuel from rural areas. [214310]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State has not received any representations on thefts of either red diesel or household fuel from rural areas.

Statistics on the theft of red diesel and household fuel are not collected centrally. Such offences would be recorded within the Home Office offence classifications of 'theft from a vehicle', 'other theft' or 'other fraud' depending on the circumstances of the offence. Such offences cannot be separately identified from the other offences included in those classifications.

The Government's commitment that there will be a Neighbourhood Policing Team in every area by 2008 has been met. This marks three years of hard work from forces to roll-out Neighbourhood Policing. Neighbourhood Policing teams engage in proactive or preventative work to tackle low level crime and anti social behaviour which may be a persistent issue or concern that exists in the local community. In rural areas, this may include working together with local agencies to provide advice to the community on preventing fuel theft. Such advice would include restricting access where possible and the use of appropriate fencing locks. No formal assessment of the role of neighbourhood policing in preventing theft of red diesel and household fuel in rural areas, has been made.

Crime has reduced by a third over the last 10 years. The Government's Crime Strategy builds upon the achievements of the last ten years but moves away from centrally imposed targets toward making local agencies accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community. This means that local areas can focus greatest effort on reducing those crimes that matter most to people locally, whatever the crime. Where the theft of red diesel and household fuel emerges as a pressing local issue, whether in a rural or urban area, we would encourage local police forces to devote resources to tackling this crime.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the UK Human Trafficking Centre was in the financial years *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; what it is in 2008-09; and what it will be in 2009-10. [214536]

Mr. Coaker: Details of the budget for the UKHTC are as follows:

	£
2006-07[1]	591,000
2007	834,084
2008	1,712,000
2009	1,602,000

[1] Part year.

The budget in 2008-09 is greater than in the following year to allow for a one off purchase of a necessary IT system.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff there were at the UK Human Trafficking Centre in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; how many there are in 2008-09; and how many she expects there to be in 2009-10. [214537]

Mr. Coaker: In 2006-07 there were initially 12 staff rising to 23 in 2007-08. This will rise to 39 within the current financial year with plans for a maximum of 42 staff within 2009-10.

As a multi agency police led centre the staffing levels include staff embedded with the UKHTC from other agencies and the Poppy Project.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question *(a)* 199977 and *(b)* 199979 on the Identity and Passport Service tabled by the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire on 3 April 2008. [211549]

Meg Hillier: I replied to the hon. Member on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 443-44W.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 790, on aviation exhaust emissions, if she will *(a)* list the titles of the research projects being undertaken at Manchester Metropolitan University and *(b)* place in the Library copies of reports arising from these projects. [215027]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 2008-10 contract with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) requires quarterly reports to include research output material for publication on the Department for Transport (DFT) website. Current research tasks address: Contrail and cirrus cloud modelling, climate models of aviation impacts for the EUs QUANTIFY Project, Identification of polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) markers, research of EU emissions and climate stabilisation under the European ETS and ICAO's Committee on Aviation and Environmental Protection (CAEP) emissions modelling. Scientific reports of this work will be available via the MMU and DFT websites. In addition to this research MMU provide the Department with technical advice and expertise in a range of international technical expert groups.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how frequently her Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213408]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The valuation of property is carried out in accordance with strict rules laid down by the Accounting Standards Board (ASB), Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and in the financial reporting manual (FReM).

The valuation policy for the Department and its Executive Agencies is set out in Note 1 to the departmental and executive agency resource accounts, as follows:

Department for Transport

Freehold land and buildings are restated to current value using professional valuations, in accordance with FRS 15. Such valuations are undertaken every five years. In intervening years, values are adjusted using appropriate methods, including indices, except the freehold land on which the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has been constructed, which has been leased to the operator for 90 years. Reflecting this usage, the land has been valued at the net present value of the lease income, since the land is not unencumbered and the Department's rights are, to that extent, constrained. The reversionary interest of the land and the Link constructed upon it are valued at nil.

Assets held for resale (dwellings), being land and property released from road schemes, are valued at open market value, less provision for selling costs.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

Land and Buildings are revalued every five years on an existing use valuation by appointed Chartered Surveyors—the last occasion being March 2005. In the intervening years a desktop or index linked revaluation (using Treasury indices) is performed.

Driving Standards Agency (DSA)

Over a five year rolling programme the whole of the DSA property assets are re-valued. This means that 20 per cent. of DSA's estate is re-valued each year with additions flowing from new additions within that year. The DSA values its property in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors valuation standards 6th edition and the current HM Treasury accounting guidance.

Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)

The Government Car and Despatch Agency restates its asset value on an annual basis.

Highways Agency (HA)

External professional surveyors undertake a full valuation of:

HA operational freehold land and buildings

HA residential properties released from road schemes and held for resale at intervals not exceeding five years, and between valuations the values are adjusted using regional land and building indices published twice yearly by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

The land and buildings assets were last fully valued as follows:

Yate Store (July 2004)

Federated House (29 July 2004)

Motorway Maintenance Compounds (October 2006)

Motorway Service Areas (March 2005)

Residential properties held for resale (December 2003)

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

A full valuation of the whole estate is carried out every five years. In addition a sample of properties are revalued each year so that, for example, significant new builds are accurately valued in the accounts.

Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)

The Vehicle Certification Agency restates its asset value on an annual basis.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency restates its asset value on an annual basis.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department are authorised to work from home. [212515]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not record centrally the number of staff who work from home. Staff may work from home with line manager agreement and subject to business needs.

As a result of business needs, the Vehicle Certification Agency employs seven staff members who are contractually authorised to work from home, while the Highways Agency have 45 employees with the necessary equipment to work from home.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 288W, on departmental official hospitality, when she expects the list of hospitality received in 2007 by members of her Department's management board to be published. [215250]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of staff in her Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [213291]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Transport comprises a central Department plus seven executive agencies each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding bonus payments has been collected from the central Department and all seven agencies and collated into one set of figures.

	Proportion of staff to receive bonus payment (percentage)	*Total amount of bonuses paid (£)*	*Largest single payment in year (£)*
2003-04	47	2,020,828	10,944
2004-05	59	1,881,308	11,191
2005-06	71	8,212,780	20,900
2006-07	77	10,147,137	23,575
2007-08	68	3,844,107	22,894

Note:
The figures exclude:
SCS bonuses for 2003-04 and SCS FTA's for 2004-05;
DVLA data for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2007-08;
VOSA data for 2007-08.

The excluded data could be produced only at disproportionate costs.

Bonuses are paid in respect of overall performance or exceptional performance on a specific task or at a specific time.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within her Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214556]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by her Department in each of the last three years. [213518]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information, where recorded, is in the following table.

£

	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
(a) New furnishings	4,785,832	9,599,468	3,144,503
(b) Art	0	0	300
(c) New vehicles	5,019,976	5,260,778	5,575,660

This excludes spend on new furnishings by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency; such costs are not recorded as specific cost categories within the accounting systems in use at these organisations and the requested data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in her Department has been since 1997. [214650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002.

Electric Vehicles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to bring forward proposals for a police trial of electric personal assistive mobility devices as part of the roadmap process to regulatory approval. [215497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has no plans for such trials, whether with or without police involvement.

George W. Bush: Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed at Heathrow Airport as a result of the recent arrival of President Bush; and what the average time of delay was. [214598]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* We have been advised by BAA that 68 flights in total (32 arrivals and 36 departures) were cancelled on 15 and 16 June, which were the dates of the President's arrival and departure.

NATS have advised that they are unable to provide detailed information on the average time of delay to affected aircraft without further analysis. As this is an operational matter for NATS, I suggest the hon. Member directs his inquiry to the Chief Executive of NATS.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 952-53W, on Great Western Trains, whether First Great Western's four-weekly reports on its Joint Performance Improvement Plan will be *(a)* published on her Department's website and *(b)* placed in the Library. [209279]

Mr. Tom Harris: These documents are commercially confidential and, as a result, not able to be published.

All train operators' performance can be viewed on the Network Rail website. This shows that Public Performance Measure for First Great Western in period 1 moved up to 90.6 per cent. and 89.3 per cent. in period 2 which ended 24 May, up from 87.9 per cent. in period 9, the four week period to 8 December 2007.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of flights *(a)* arriving at and *(b)* taking off from Heathrow Airport were late in each year since 1997; and what the (i) maximum and (ii) average delay in each category was in each year. [214729]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The following tables show the percentage of flights *(a)* arriving at and *(b)* taking off from Heathrow Airport which were late in each year (1997-2007) and the average delay. Information relating to maximum delay is not available.

(a) Arrivals

	Number of flights matched	*Percentage late*	*Average delay (minutes)*
1997	212,281	32.5	n/a
1998	218,475	32.8	n/a
1999	222,610	33.6	n/a
2000	227,740	34.3	18.5
2001	226,686	30.9	17.2
2002	228,142	30.2	16.7
2003	226,362	25.5	14.7
2004	232,328	30.3	16.4
2005	234,099	29.9	16.4
2006	233,722	30.7	17.3
2007	236,074	32.6	18.2

(b) Departures

	Number of flights matched	*Percentage late*	*Average delay (minutes)*
1997	212,380	25.8	n/a
1998	218,449	26.4	n/a
1999	222,809	28.2	n/a
2000	227,955	27.8	15.2
2001	226,826	27.7	15.0
2002	228,262	29.8	15.9
2003	226,710	28.1	15.5
2004	232,634	33.9	17.6
2005	234,601	33.9	17.4
2006	233,804	39.3	20.2
2007	236,311	42.1	21.1

Notes:

1. The airline industry standard for on-time departures/arrivals is within 15 minutes of the advertised time. "Percentage late" is therefore flights departing/arriving 15 minutes or more after the advertised time
2. n/a—Average delay data are not available prior to 2000.

Source:

CAA punctuality statistics

M6: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of progress in planning the proposed *(a)* western route and *(b)* northern route of the M6-Heysham link road. [209666]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Lancashire county council decided to progress the northern route rather than the western route. The Department for Transport saw no grounds to depart from this conclusion. The proposed northern route was granted planning permission in February 2008. The business case is currently being assessed by DFT officials in accordance with existing guidance for major transport schemes.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will examine the introduction of a system of registration for foreign registered vehicles brought to Great Britain to prevent avoidance of *(a)* parking and *(b)* traffic offence fines; and if she will make a statement. [213979]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have no plans to consider an additional registration system for the purpose of preventing avoidance of parking penalties and other civil penalties. The Government recognise that further action needs to be taken at European level to enable more effective enforcement of civil road use contraventions and is considering how best to achieve this. The European Commission has recently published a draft Directive on Facilitating Cross Border Enforcement in the Field of Road Safety, aimed at more effective cross-border enforcement of penalties for certain criminal offences.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on the UK car manufacturing sector of policy on cars designated for ministerial use, with particular reference to the proportion of such cars manufactured *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK. [214204]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing official cars and drivers to Ministers and senior officials. It has made no assessment on the effect that its purchasing patterns have on the UK car manufacturing sector.

Olympic Games 2012

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of the 2012 Olympic Games on transport around and to *(a)* Hampden Park Stadium, Glasgow, *(b)* St James' Park Stadium, Newcastle, *(c)* Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, *(d)* Villa Park Stadium, Birmingham, *(e)* the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, *(f)* Weymouth and Portsmouth, *(g)* Broxbourne and *(h)* Eton Dorney in the period the Games will take place. [211410]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for planning and delivering transport for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The ODA is already working with stakeholders to develop transport strategies for venues at Weymouth and Portland, Broxbourne and Eton Dorney. There is ongoing engagement between the ODA and stakeholders at regional Olympic football stadia and detailed transport planning and strategy development will be undertaken later this year.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister in her Department has responsibility for non-London transport to and from the 2012 Olympic Games. [211415]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am the departmental Minister responsible for the Games.

Olympic Games 2012: Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice she plans to issue to national rail passengers in relation to the period of the 2012 Olympic Games. [211409]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for planning and delivering transport for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The ODA will work with all Train Operating Companies and Network Rail to ensure that information is provided to meet the needs of all passengers during the games.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on capacity of the national rail network of demand during the 2012 Olympic Games; [211411]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effects of holding the 2012 Olympic Games on peak hour commuting journeys across the national rail network to and from London during the period of the Games. [211412]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for planning and delivering transport for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The ODA's Olympic Transport Plan, which was published in October 2007 sets out a number of infrastructure improvements to support the delivery of Games-time transport. The ODA is working with train operating companies and Network Rail on developing Olympic Service Delivery Plans based on Games-time demand forecasts provided by the ODA. These delivery plans will include transport on peak hour commuter services.

Parking Offences: Fines

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many parking tickets were issued by each local authority in respect of foreign registered vehicles in the last 12 months; how many were paid; and if she will make a statement; [213977]

(2) how much local authorities have failed to collect in respect of parking fines levied on vehicles registered overseas in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [213978]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. The enforcement of decriminalised traffic contraventions is a matter for the relevant local authorities. They are not required to provide such information to the Government.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of those applying for a Blue Badge disabled driver's permit had their application declined in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK between 1987 and 2007. [213561]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 2002, the Department for Transport has collected data on the proportion of successful Blue Badge applications made to top tier local authorities in England.

(a) No data are available at an individual district council level, such as Chorley.

(b) In 2006-07, there were 10,743 new applications for Blue Badges in Lancashire. Approximately 6 per cent. were unsuccessful.

(c) This compared with 419,268 new applications for Blue Badges in England as a whole in 2006-07. Approximately 12 per cent. were unsuccessful.

Individual English local authorities may still hold data from 1987 but this is not held centrally. The Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Irish Assembly also collect separate Blue Badge data for their own administrative areas.

Railways: Standards

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations she has received from hon. Members and members of the public relating to performance of train operating companies in the last 12 months. [211416]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department receives representations relating to train operating companies' performance in a variety of formats. A number of such representations have been received over the last 12 months. The exact number received could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's high level output specification requires the industry to achieve 92.6 per cent. rail punctuality by March 2014, as measured by the industry-standard public performance measure moving annual average. Rail punctuality reached 90 per cent. in May 2008, which is the highest level recorded to date.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the information provided to the Renewable Fuels Agency by companies under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) monthly reporting requirement for the first month of the RTFO's operation, broken down by *(a)* fuel type, *(b)* quantity of fuel in litres, *(c)* biofuel feedstock, *(d)* feedstock origin, *(e)* land use on 30 November 2005, *(f)* standard and *(g)* carbon intensity. [215372]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) is continuing to process and reconcile the data in question, and has only provided the Department with very provisional summaries at this stage. The RFA is currently considering its reporting strategy, including the content and timing of reports, in liaison with stakeholders. The RFA has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (SI 3072) to report annually to Parliament on matters such as this. In addition, the Secretary of State for Transport has asked for quarterly reports from the RFA on the sustainability of the biofuels used under the RTFO. The first of these quarterly reports is due to be submitted in the early autumn.

Road Traffic Offences: EU Action

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with European Union partners on the introduction of common enforcement measures for unpaid *(a)* parking and *(b)* traffic fines incurred in respect of vehicles registered in another member state; and if she will make a statement. [213946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government recognise that further action needs to be taken at European level to enable more effective enforcement of civil road use contraventions, and is considering how best to achieve this.

Road Traffic Offences: Fines

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms exist to enable the recovery of *(a)* parking and *(b)* traffic fines incurred in respect of foreign registered vehicles from the owners or registered keepers of the vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [213980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Provisions included in the Local Transport Bill will, subject to the consideration of Parliament, enable the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to provide information received from foreign registration authorities to UK authorities. This will help UK local authorities to identify and pursue keepers of foreign registered vehicles for unpaid penalties.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of drivers involved in fatal traffic accidents were *(a)* uninsured and *(b)* driving a car that did not have a valid MOT in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) police authority region. [214740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Research reported in the published "Road Safety Research Report No. 75: Fatal vehicle occupant collisions: An in-depth study" (published on 26 February 2007) found that in a study of nearly 1,200 fatal accidents about 7 per cent. involved an uninsured driver. This report is available at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/fatalvehicleoccupant75.pdf.

Roads: Lorries

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the cost of the effect on road infrastructure of the journeys made by non-UK-registered heavy goods vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [213945]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As part of the freight data feasibility study that concluded earlier this year the study team estimated the total annual cost of damage to UK roads by foreign hauliers to be £16.8 million.

Roads: Noise

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department and its agencies have issued on the level of use and the suitability of noise retardant material to resurface *(a)* A roads and *(b)* residential roads. [214192]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Highways Agency manages the strategic road network in England. To reduce traffic noise on their roads, all new roads and major maintenance schemes on trunk roads, including motorways, are surfaced with quieter asphalt. The Highways Agency's specification requires that any new surfacing has the capability of providing a noise reduction of least 2.5 dB(A), or in very noise sensitive areas, a reduction of at least 3.5 dB(A), when compared to a typical conventional surface.

The management of local roads, including decisions on which road treatment to use, are a matter for each local highway authority. However, this Department has endorsed "Well-maintained Highways", the code of practice on highways maintenance published by the UK

Roads Board, which encourages highways authorities to consider noise reduction measures when maintaining roads. The code can be found at:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org.

Roads: Surveys

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected completion date is for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) survey into public attitudes towards road pricing; and which companies ONS is using to conduct the research. [215260]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The ONS Omnibus Survey is ongoing. The research is conducted by ONS, who do not use subcontractors.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the BMRB research commissioned by her Department into the public acceptability of road pricing. [215261]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The research carried out by BMRB Social Research and the Centre for Transport and Society was published on the DfT website on 8 May 2008:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/rptroadpricing/

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Tolls

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 893W, on roads: tolls, what use will be made of satellite technology to assist such road pricing research. [214995]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The winning bidders for the road pricing demonstration project have yet to be announced, and therefore the precise technical solutions to be demonstrated are yet to be determined. However, we expect that satellite technology will play a part in the systems that the successful bidders will be trialling.

Stations: Crime

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many crimes against a person were committed at *(a)* rail stations that met secure station status and *(b)* other stations, broken down by (i) sex of offender and (ii) incident type in each year since 1997. [214741]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN. E-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213755]

(2) how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department and its predecessor originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

Timber

The Department for Transport does not record this information and could only be obtained disproportionate cost.

Timber products

The only timber product recorded by the Department for Transport is furniture. The following table provides details of the furniture timber products procured by the Department for Transport over the last five years.

	Cost of items purchased (£)
2003-04	738,886
2004-05	929,821
2005-06	478,627
2006-07	302,611
2007-08	323,820

All the furniture was procured through Office of Government Commerce furniture contracts which require the supplier to be able to provide chain of custody for all timber, back to an independently verifiable sustainable and legal source.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Nature Conservation: EU Law

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1243W, on nature conservation: EU law, whether the value of each hectare of salt marsh created exceeds the value of the asset it replaces. [212637]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: The information is not available to say whether the value of each hectare of salt marsh created for the purposes of meeting the requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) exceeds the value of the asset that it replaces. However, I can confirm that the Government seek to ensure that legal requirements arising from the directive are met in a cost effective and sustainable way. I can further confirm that the value of any assets lost would, in each case, inform the assessment of the options considered to meet any such legal requirements.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Business Plans

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 609W, on departments: manpower, when her Department will publish a business plan for 2008-09. [201403]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office business plan was published on 18 April 2008. It is on the GEO website:

www.equalities.gov.uk

and a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken to strengthen the Government's equality agenda since its creation. [201419]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment as a Government Department in October 2007, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has set in train a range of initiatives to strengthen the Government's equality agenda. For example, the GEO concluded a consultation on the Discrimination Law Review and is preparing an Equality Bill for introduction in the next parliamentary session. It has been delivering on the Ministers for Women Priorities. The GEO has also implemented the EU gender directive, agreed the first ever equality public service agreement, launched the Equality and Human Rights Commission and set up the Black and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce. Further details of the work of the GEO will be detailed in the departmental report which will be published before recess.

HEALTH

Antidepressants

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to amend legislation following the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's report of its investigation into GlaxoSmithKline and the anti-depressant drug Seroxat. [215450]

Dawn Primarolo: On 23 May 2008 the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published a consultation on proposals to amend the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations, Etc.) Regulations 1994 to ensure the United Kingdom's legislation is fully in line with existing European Union (EU) law covering the circumstances when marketing authorisation holders should report new information which might influence the evaluation of the benefits and risks for a medicine to the MHRA. The proposed changes state explicitly that marketing authorisation holders should report information from clinical trials outside the licensed indication, report information arising from third countries and provide a timescale for the reporting of such information.

Copies of consultation (MLX 350) have been placed in the Library and are also available on MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/MLXs/CON017761.

The consultation closes on 15 August 2008. Subject to the outcome of consultation, the Government plans to amend legislation before the end of the year.

In addition, the European Commission is currently formulating proposals to strengthen the EU system for monitoring the safety of medicines. The MHRA has proposed that the EC take this opportunity to introduce a number of additional changes in the light of the investigation into GlaxoSmithKline. We expect European proposals to be published later this year.

Bone Marrow: Donors

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the number of bone marrow donors; [214820]

(2) what steps the Government plans to take to encourage more people to become bone marrow donors; [214821]

(3) what steps the Government plans to take to encourage young people to become bone marrow donors. [214824]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently 300,000 donors registered on the British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR), 150,000 have been recruited in the last three years.

The National Blood Service (NBS) ask new blood donors about joining the BBMR when they first become a blood donor. Volunteer bone marrow donors are especially needed from black and minority ethnic backgrounds as currently just five per cent. of registered donors on the BBMR are from these backgrounds. The NBS has introduced the 'One Blood' campaign, to attract more people from these groups to become blood donors and join the BBMR.

To ensure young people understand the importance of donation of blood, organs, tissue and bone marrow, and to encourage them to become donors in the future, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has developed the 'Give and Let Live' educational pack and website. The pack was launched in September 2007 and all secondary schools were contacted. The pack is designed to dispel myths and give 14-16 year olds accurate information about the need and use of blood, organs and tissue.

NHSBT is currently updating the pack and website and a revised version, based on feedback from schools, will be launched in this year's autumn term.

Byotrol

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments have been made by his Department to Byotrol plc in each of the last five years. [215131]

Mr. Bradshaw: Byotrol have received no payment from the Department.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has signed with Byotrol plc in the last five years. [245132]

Mr. Bradshaw: Byotrol has no contracts with the Department.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available; [212884]

(2) how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213402]

Mr. Bradshaw: The value of property held by the Department at the 31 March 2007, as stated in the "2006-07 Resource Accounts", is £6,360 million. This figure includes all those organisations within the departmental boundary including the Department itself, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, those special health authorities not funded by trading activities, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

Details of the arrangements for the valuation of the Department's fixed assets are set out at section 1.4 of the "Department of Health Resource Accounts 2006-07", a copy of which has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081317.

Information on the Department's arm's length bodies is not collected centrally.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement. [213698]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 2002, the bespoke National Health Service Environmental Assessment Tool kit (NEAT) has been the Department's response to the Government's objective of a sustainable construction programme through the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM).

All NHS capital development schemes have to submit a NEAT score as part of the business case or scheme approval process. To be approved, the business case has to demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NEAT score rating of 'excellent' for a new build or 'very good' for a refurbishment scheme. All business cases approved by the Department in the last five years, and for which records are held centrally, have done so.

No information is held centrally on those capital schemes developed by NHS bodies which do not require departmental approval, although the guidance is that they should also achieve the appropriate NEAT scores.

The NEAT process is being revised for re-issue as BREEAM Healthcare with effect from 30 June 2008 and will follow the same procedural and score rating requirements for health care construction projects.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213736]

Mr. Bradshaw: The construction of most health facilities by national health service bodies is undertaken by means of three particular procurement methods. These are the private finance initiative (PFI) for hospital facilities, ProCure 21 to deliver public capital funded hospital and primary care facilities, and the local improvement finance trust (LIFT) initiative in respect of primary care and hospital facilities that are commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs).

Information on the number of completed projects in these three programmes is given in aggregated form in the table. Detail on the proportion of new build to refurbishment on each project is not routinely collected.

The figures given do not include those construction projects undertaken by the NHS by means other than the three procurement methods identified. These are predominantly the smaller public capital funded schemes commissioned locally by NHS trusts and PCTs and which are below departmental delegated approval limits.

	Number of projects completed
2005-06	129
2006-07	139
2007-08	77

As part of the Department's evidence to the Health Select Committee's 2007 Public Expenditure Inquiry, a survey was undertaken to identify the proportion of new build and refurbishment that featured in major hospital capital projects completed since 1997. An extract is shown in the following table.

Question 16: Hospital capital projects completed since 1997 by outline business case (OBC) approval date

					Percentage	
Strategic health authority	NHS Trust/PCT	Procurement route	Value (£ million)	OBC approval date	Of build scheme categorised 'new build'	Of build scheme categorised 'refurbishment'
EM	Nottingham University Hospitals—Queen's Medical Centre	PFI	17	Pre 1997	100	0
SEC	Sussex Partnership	PFI	22	Pre 1997	100	0
SW	Swindon and Marlborough	PFI	100	1 December 1993	100	0
NW	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals—Carlisle	PFI	67	1 January 1994	100	0
SC	Buckinghamshire Hospitals Amersham	PFI	45	1 September 1994	100	0
NE	South Tees Acute Hospitals[1]	PFI	122	1 October 1994		
E of E	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals	PFI	158	1 January 1995	100	0
WM	Hereford Hospitals	PFI	64	1 January 1995	95	5
Lon	Bromley Hospitals	PFI	118	1 March 1995	100	0
SEC	Dartford and Gravesham	PFI	94	1 March 1995	100	0

Question 16. Hospital capital projects completed since 1997 by outline business case (OBC) approval date

					Percentage	
Strategic health authority	*NHS Trust/PCT*	*Procurement route*	*Value (£ million)*	*OBC approval date*	*Of build scheme categorised 'new build'*	*Of build scheme categorised 'refurbishment'*
Lon	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Greenwich	PFI	96	1 April 1995	70	30
Lon	St. George's Healthcare	PFI	46	1 June 1995	100	0
WM	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals	PFI	87	1 June 1995	100	0
Lon	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	PFI	54	1 December 1995	100	0
SEC	Surrey PCT—Farnham	PFI	29	1 January 1996	100	0
WM	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health	PFI	18	1 May 1996	78	22
Lon	Brent PCT—Willesden	PFI	22	1 September 1996	100	0
E of E	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	PFI	15	1 October 1996	100	0
Lon	Camden and Islington	Public capital (PC)	26	1 October 1996	100	0
WM	Dudley Group of Hospitals	PFI	137	1 November 1996	55	45
Lon	North East London Mental Health	PFI	11	1 February 1997	100	0
NW	Pennine Care	PC	24	1 July 1997	75	25
Lon	East London and The City Mental Health—Newham	PFI	15	1 November 1997	100	0
SW	Cornwall Partnership—Bodmin	PFI	10	17 December 1997	100	0
Y and H	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals—Maternity	PFI	22	19 February 1998	100	0
Lon	Newham University Hospital	PFI	55	1 March 1998	100	0
EM	Nottinghamshire Healthcare	PFI	19	1 June 1998	97	3
WM	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	PFI	13	1 June 1998	100	0
Lon	East London and The City Mental Health—Tower Hamlets	PC	[illegible]	1 September 1998	98	2
SC	Buckinghamshire Hospitals—Stoke Mandeville	PFI	47	2 March 1999	93	7
SW	Devon PCT—Tiverton	PFI	10	2[illegible] April 1999	100	0
Lon	West Middlesex University Hospital	PFI	60	1 May 1999	100	0
NW	East Lancashire Hospitals—Burnley[1]	PFI	30	1 July 1999		
NW	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh—Royal Albert Edward Infirmary	PC	25	31 July 1999	69	31
SC	Berkshire West PCT	PFI	19	1 August 1999	100	0
SC	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	PFI	37	1 August 1999	100	0
Lon	The Whittington	PFI	32	1 October 1999	85	15
NW	East Lancashire Hospitals—Blackburn[2]	PFI	110	31 January 2000		
Lon	Barts and the London	PFI	1,000	1 February 2000	95	5
Lon	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals	PFI	238	1 March 2000	100	0
Lon	Wandsworth PCT—Queen Mary's Roehampton	PFI	75	1 April 2000	100	0
NW	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals	PFI	512	1 May 2000	98	2
SC	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals—relocation	PFI	134	1 May 2000	100	0
WM	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire—Walsgrave	PFI	379	1 July 2000	98	2
WM	Sandwell and W Birmingham Hospitals—City Hospital	PFI	26	1 November 2000	100	0
Lon	Kingston Hospital	PFI	33	27 November 2000	100	0
SC	Portsmouth Hospitals	PFI	236	1 December 2000	75	25
Y and H	Leeds Teaching Hospitals—Wharfedale	PFI	14	1 January 2001	100	0
Lon	Hammersmith Hospitals—Renal Centre	PC	25	12 April 2001	100	0
WM	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare	PFI	28	1 August 2001	100	0

Question 16: Hospital capital projects completed since 1997 by outline business case (OBC) approval date

					Percentage	
Strategic health authority	*NHS Trust/PCT*	*Procurement route*	*Value (£ million)*	*OBC approval date*	*Of build scheme categorised 'new build'*	*Of build scheme categorised 'refurbishment'*
Y and H	Leeds Teaching Hospitals	PFI	265	1 September 2001	100	0
NE	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear—Morpeth	PFI	32	1 November 2001	100	0
NE	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys—West Park	PFI	16	30 November 2001	100	0
SEC	Brighton and Sussex University—children's hospital	PFI	36	1 February 2002	100	0
Lon	West London Mental Health—DSPD Broadmoor	PC	36	1 March 2002	100	0
SEC	Brighton and Sussex University	PC	12	1 March 2002	90	10
SW	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	PFI	83	1 May 2002	75	25
Lon	Lewisham Hospital	PFI	72	1 June 2002	100	0
EM	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	PFI	28	29 June 2002	100	0
SC	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals—Cancer	PFI	129	1 August 2002	100	0
WM	University Hospital of North Staffordshire/Stoke on Trent PCT	PFI	306	1 August 2002	64	36
Lon	North Middlesex University Hospital	PFI	111	31 August 2002	100	0
SC	Hampshire PCT—Lymington	PFI	36	1 September 2002	100	0
NW	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals	PFI	338	25 October 2002	100	0
Y and H	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals—Wakefield and Pontefract	PFI	343	31 October 2002	100	0
Y and H	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals—Oncology	PFI	67	1 November 2002	100	0
NW	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre—Cardiac Centre	PC	45	1 January 2003	100	0
Y and H	Kirklees PCT	PFI	27	1 January 2003	97	3
Lon	North West London Hospitals—Central Middlesex	PFI	60	1 March 2003	98	2
Lon	West London Mental Health	PC	14	1 March 2003	100	0
SC	Southampton University Hospitals—Cardiac	PC	53	24 March 2003	90	10
SW	Taunton and Somerset	PFI	21	4 June 2003	100	0
NE	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear—Neuro Disability Centre	PFI	37	20 September 2003	100	0
E of E	South West Essex Teaching PCT	PFI	30	26 November 2003	100	0
EM	Lincolnshire Teaching Primary Care NHS Trust	PFI	29	1 January 2004	100	0
E of E	Ipswich Hospital	PFI	36	1 March 2004	100	0
Y and H	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals—Cardiac	PC	51	1 January 2005	100	0
SC	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals—Cardiac Centre	PC	29	1 March 2005	97	3
SW	United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol—Cardiothoracic Centre	PC	64	12 May 2005	100	0
Lon	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children	PC	75	14 December 2006	0	100
NW	The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool	PC	49	Post 1997	100	0
SEC	Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	PC	14	Post 1997	100	0
SW	Plymouth Hospitals—South West Cardiothoracic Unit	PC	31	Post 1997	100	0
WM	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals—Heart and Lung Centre	PC	57	Post 1997	100	0
Lon	Barnet PCT (Edgware Community)[1]	PC	40	—	—	—
				Average	95.0	5.0

[1] Responses were not received from three organisations (four build schemes in total).

Note:

No data are available for the 25 build schemes at foundation trusts.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215177]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212524]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's human resources information system currently records four staff as members of its official home working scheme. The Department also allows staff to work at home on an occasional basis at management discretion. No data are kept on these ad hoc arrangements that enable staff to enjoy a more flexible, family friendly working arrangement.

Our policy is in line with approaches commonly adopted across the civil service and reflects good practice followed by organisations more widely.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212498]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average pay per hour of permanent and temporary civil servants in the Department, broken down by pay band is as follows:

Pay band	*Average pay per hour (£)*
Administrative Officer	11.61
Executive Officer	15.12
Higher Executive Officer	18.44
Fast Stream	19.01
Senior Executive Officer	22.73
Grade 7	30.06
Grade 6	38.05
Senior Civil Service Pay Band 1	45.88
Senior Civil Service Pay Band 2	64.43
Senior Civil Service Pay Band 3	103.01

Note:
Permanent and temporary staff are not identified separately, but temporary staff account for less than 2 per cent. of the total number of staff. Figures are as at December 2007. They cover basic salaries and have been calculated on the assumption of 220.5 working days in a year and average full-time contracted hours of 36.33 a week.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which pilot projects initiated by his Department in the last two years have not proceeded to further roll-out. [211839]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215209]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Library Service is responsible for central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and other publications for Library use and for retention by individual units. The following table details the monthly spend, by the Library, on print publications in the last 24 months covering the period June 2006 to May 2008.

	Spend on magazines, newspapers and other publications (£)
June 2006	21,946
July 2006	14,905
August 2006	[1]28,552
September 2006	[1]15,660
October 2006	12,963
November 2006	15,397
December 2006	16,602
January 2007	10,958
February 2007	15,146
March 2007	13,526
April 2007	[1]178,067
May 2007	12,097
June 2007	9,191
July 2007	[1]27,619
August 2007	[1]65,877
September 2007	11,895
October 2007	12,581
November 2007	19,662
December 2007	14,848
January 2008	15,914
February 2008	15,555
March 2008	18,508
April 2008	[1]184,589
May 2008	8,505

[1] Figures include payments for journal subscriptions for the financial year.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS staff and *(b)* Department of Health staff were given long-term sick leave for mental health reasons in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [212230]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not currently collect sickness absence information in the detail requested for national health service staff.

The Department uses a category of 'mental health, including depression, anxiety and potential stress-related problems' to record absence for mental health reasons. In the calendar year 2007, 20 staff were on sick leave for more than 40 working days for this reason. Figures for previous years are not available.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212001]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the financial year 2007-08, the average number of working days lost (AWDL) per member of the Department's staff due to sickness absence was 5.3. Based on average salary costs, this equates to a cost of £2,386,000 for the year. For 2006-07, AWDL was 6.5 and for the calendar year 2005, AWDL was 7.0 (Cabinet Office reporting periods changed from calendar years to financial years between 2005 and 2006). Assuming the same average salaries and staff numbers for these years gives costs of £2,926,000 for 2006-07 and £3,151,000 for 2005.

Figures are not available before 2005.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trade unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212482]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies recognise the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect and FDA for the purposes of representation on matters such as pay and other human resources issues. The vast majority of staff who are members of trade unions belong to one of these three, although a small number are members of other unions that the Department does not formally recognise.

Health Centres

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual cost of running a GP surgery is. [213097]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average annual cost of running a general practitioner practice in England in 2007-08 is currently £889,488.

HIV Infection

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government are taking to encourage primary care trusts to devote more resources to HIV prevention; [214336]

(2) if he will establish a short-term fund to encourage GP surgeries and other healthcare settings to pilot routine HIV testing to reduce the number of undiagnosed cases of HIV; [214338]

(3) if he will take steps to persuade other health authorities to adopt targets similar to those of the London Strategic Health Authority on the reduction of the incidence of late diagnosis of HIV. [214370]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts to decide on their local priorities for funding. The Department published The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (copies of which are available in the Library) in 2001, which highlights HIV prevention as a priority area. The Department has supported local action on HIV prevention through a range of publications focusing on the groups at highest risk including gay men and people from African communities.

As set out in the Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps (copies of which are available in the Library) the Department will be funding new work this year to pilot action to reduce undiagnosed HIV by improving the detection and diagnosis of HIV in a variety of settings. The Department has previously funded the Terrence Higgins Trust to pilot the acceptability and effectiveness of community-based HIV and syphilis and this new work will build on the evaluation findings from this earlier work.

We welcome the work done by NHS London in setting an HIV prevention performance indicator to reduce the incidence of late HIV diagnosis. It is for individual strategic health authorities to decide if they wish to introduce a local indicator on HIV, taking into account local and regional variations in prevalence. The Independent Advisory Group for Sexual Health's review of the Sexual Health and HIV Strategy, will also suggest possible indicators for use at national and local level.

Hospitals

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213633]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of new hospital schemes commissioned under this Government and which have opened in each constituency in each year since 1997-98 has been placed in the Library.

Information on any hospital closures outside of these schemes is not held centrally. National health service organisations will decide locally what constitutes the best configuration of healthcare services and facilities for their populations, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Hospitals: Inspections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in London met each of the Core Standards for Better Health in the most recent period for which figures are available. [214188]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each national health service trust and NHS foundation trust is required to publish a self-declaration of compliance against the Core Standards for Better Health. These declarations are on each trust's website and the Healthcare Commission published the national position on 16 June 2008.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for hospital treatment was in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [214178]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Average in-patient waiting time for organisations covering Chorley, Lancashire and England 1997 to present

		Median wait (weeks)		
	Period	Organisations covering Chorley	Organisations covering Lancashire	England
1997	March	15.4	12.9	13.2
1998	March	16.5	12.8	14.9
1999	March	14.9	11.6	12.9
2000	March	13.3	11.8	12.9
2001	March	12.2	11.6	12.6
2002	March	12.1	12.1	12.7
2003	March	10.0	11.4	11.9
2004	March	9.7	10.0	10.2
2005	March	8.3	8.2	8.5
2006	March	7.6	7.0	7.3
2007	March	4.8	4.7	6.2
2008	March	3.0	3.5	4.5

Notes

1 Organisations covering Chorley:

South Lancashire Health Authority (HA), 1997-2002;

Chorley and South Ribble PCT, 2003-06;

Central Lancashire primary care trust (PCT), 2007-08

2 Organisations covering Lancashire:

South Lancashire HA, East Lancashire HA, North West Lancashire HA, Morecombe Bay HA; 1997-2002

Blackburn With Darwen PCT, Blackpool PCT, Morecombe Bay PCT, Chorley and South Ribble PCT, West Lancashire PCT, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT, Preston PCT, Fylde PCT, Wyre PCT; 2003-06

Blackburn With Darwen PCT, Blackpool PCT, Central Lancashire PCT, East Lancashire PCT, North Lancashire PCT; 2007-08

3 The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting at the end of the period.

4 In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.

5 Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:

QF01 and Monthly Monitoring (Commissioner based)

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the draft guidance from the Section 29 Working Party on electronic medical records, what evaluation he has undertaken of the compatibility of the Connecting for Health proposals with the draft guidance; and if he will make a statement. [213347]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 'draft guidance' is contained in a European Union working document, issued for consultation purposes. It does not represent an agreed legal interpretation and has no legal weight attached to it.

The document, as it stands, suggests that electronic health records should be supported by specific legislation to fully comply with data protection requirements. This is applicable to all electronic health records, not just those being introduced by NHS Connecting for Health. We responded to the consultation suggesting that the document should be amended to better reflect the realities of team-based modern health care and to allow for the impact of United Kingdom domestic common law of confidentiality that runs alongside data protection requirements.

The Department has sought and received the advice of the Information Commissioner to ensure that the various elements of the national programme for information technology enable users to be fully compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998, which is the domestic legislation that gave effect to the European Directive on Data Protection.

NHS

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of establishing a legal requirement for NHS trusts to implement recommendations made by *(a)* the Healthcare Commission and *(b)* the Parliamentary Health Service Commissioner. [213318]

Mr. Bradshaw: Subject to parliamentary approval, the Healthcare Commission will cease to exist on 1 April 2009, with its regulatory function being replaced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). In the reformed complaints process, we do not envisage the CQC having a direct role in handling individual NHS complaints (other than specific complaints as to discharge of powers or duties under the Mental Health Act, carrying forward the current Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) role). Unsatisfied complainants will be able to approach the health service ombudsman directly if their complaint cannot be resolved locally. None the less, the issue of learning from complaints is certainly very important.

However, we do not believe that a specific legal requirement will be necessary. Requirement 10 of the CQC registration requirements, proposed in our recent consultation "The future regulation of health and adult social care in England: A consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers", would require registered providers and managers to have effective systems in place for handling complaints. This would place an obligation on care providers to ensure that learning from complaints is reflected in risk management, quality assurance, clinical governance and training and development arrangements. Learning would be informed by a variety of sources, but we would expect recommendations from the Ombudsman and other key sources to play a vital role. The new Care Quality Commission will be able to use the full range of its enforcement powers to take action where people fail to meet those requirements.

NHS: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [214181]

Mr. Bradshaw: We recognise the challenging financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, which reported in its draft accounts a deficit of £35.6 million for the 2007-08 financial year. We are continuing to work with the London strategic health authority as it and the trust's management develop plans for the trust's financial recovery.

NHS: Telecommunications

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1160W, on NHS: telecommunications, what assessment has been made of the impact on the provision of radio and entertainment for patients in the event of the contractor ceasing to support the contracted for service. [214428]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not assessed the impact on the provision of radio and entertainment for patients in the event of the contractor ceasing to support the contracted for service. The Department is not party to the contracts, which are made between the national health service trust and its chosen provider.

It is the responsibility of individual NHS trusts to assess the impact of its provider ceasing to support the service and have in place a contingency plan should this happen.

The bedside entertainment systems are additional to the provision of services that existed in the past and alternatives could be made available, such as hospital payphones and free televisions in day rooms.

Papillomavirus

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria were taken into account in selecting the vaccine to be used by the NHS for the prevention of human papilloma virus infection; [215476]

(2) what criteria were used to assess the efficacy of human papilloma virus vaccines in preventing sexual health disorders in the decision-making process to determine which vaccine is available on the NHS. [215477]

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons GlaxoSmithKline were selected to provide the vaccine against the human papillomavirus. [215084]

Dawn Primarolo: Cervarix, the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline was selected because the bid from this company scored higher in the adjudication process against the pre-agreed award criteria than the competitor.

The pre-agreed award criteria, as follows, were shared with the manufacturers during the process so that they were fully informed of the criteria against which their bids would be evaluated.

Award criteria for the evaluation of the contract to supply HPV vaccine

quality of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18;

duration of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18 for more than 10 years duration;

quality of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV strains 6/11;

duration of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV strains 6/11 for more than 10 years duration;

quality of protection against HPV strains not included in the vaccine formulation;

other evidence of additional clinical benefits;

effective price per dose excluding VAT;

supply of the vaccine as single pre-filled syringe pack presentation;

quality of labelling, leaflets and presentation;

shelf life;

flexibility in the vaccine dosage schedule;

offers that reduce the risk of wastage if the vaccine is subject to temperatures above 8°C (this include the provision of temperature indicators and evidence based guidance on the stability of the vaccines at higher storage temperatures and subsequent safe administration.);

closeness of proposed delivery schedule to authority requirements;

pallet configuration including a preference for the use of Euro pallets;

impact of proposed amendments to the terms and conditions;

quality/robustness of manufacturing contingency arrangements;

quality/robustness of the risk management of storage and distribution; and

information provided relating to pack sizes, cold chain delivery, batch numbering systems and production capacity.

Patients

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances his Department requires independent verification of the figures for patient numbers by category provided by the medical director of an NHS trust. [209857]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not seek independent verification of patient numbers produced by a national health service medical director.

The Department, through Connecting for Health, is responsible for setting the national standards for national health service datasets and for the maintenance of NHS datasets supporting these national standards. Datasets are groups of information provided by the NHS, and collected in a standardised way. They cover a range of clinical areas including mental health, acute myocardial infarction, diabetes and cancer.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases were dealt with by the NHS Litigation Authority *(a)* in which pressure ulcers were the ground for the claim and *(b)* which were settled in the claimants favour in each of the last five years; what the administrative cost was of dealing with the cases in each year; and how much was paid in settlements and compensation in each year. [214463]

Mr. Bradshaw: The available information requested, provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA), is in the following tables; the administrative cost for dealing with the cases in each year is not quantifiable.

Number of clinical negligence claims received from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008 by NHSLA where the injury is pressure sore as at 31 May 2008

NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*
2003-04	53
2004-05	66
2005-06	66
2006-07	57
2007-08	70

Number of closed clinical negligence claims by year of settlement for the last five years where the injury is pressure sore as at 31 May 2008[1]

	Closed with damages payments				
Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Total paid*
2003-04	52	858,662	179,653	622,249	1,660,564
2004-05	42	1,342,784	161,989	439,484	1,944,257
2005-06	43	920,532	163,267	638,769	1,722,568
2006-07	47	968,600	190,169	575,264	1,734,033
2007-08	31	497,490	146,353	485,925	1,129,768

Closed, nil damages payments

Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Total paid*
2003-04	6	0	0	0	0
2004-05	14	0	14,457	0	14,457
2005-06	19	0	21,073	9	21,082
2006-07	13	0	9,560	0	9,560
2007-08	8	0	50	0	50

Total

Year of settlement	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Total paid*
2003-04	58	858,662	179,653	622,249	1,660,564
2004-05	56	1,342,784	176,446	439,484	1,958,714
2005-06	62	920,532	184,340	638,778	1,743,650
2006-07	60	968,600	199,729	575,264	1,743,593
2007-08	39	497,490	146,403	485,925	1,129,818

[1] These are the claims settled in the last five years; they are not the claims received in any one year—claims can take several financial years to settle. In addition, the money was not likely to have been spent solely in the year the claim was settled (the NHSLA's defence costs, for example, are paid quarterly through the life of the claim).

Skin Piercing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will initiate a review of legislation on local authority monitoring of piercing businesses from 2010. [214105]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no current plans to review legislation on local authority regulation of cosmetic piercing businesses.

University College Hospital: Inspections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the Core Standards for Better Health were met by University College Hospital in the most recent period for which information is available; and which of the standards the hospital did not meet in that period. [214187]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check for 2007-08, University College London Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust declared compliance with all 43 applicable parts of the 24 core standards.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Biofuels

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of biofuels in ordinary petrol and diesel is made up of biofuel; and what biofuels are primarily being used for these purposes. [214201]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Current fuel quality standards permit the blending of up to 5 per cent. of biofuel into ordinary petrol and diesel. The renewable transport fuel obligation, which came into effect on 15 April 2008, is likely to mean that over the period from 15 April 2008 to 14 April 2009, 2.5 per cent. in aggregate of total UK road transport fuel sales will be made up of biofuels. In practice, we expect that road transport fuel suppliers will for the most part comply with this obligation by blending biodiesel into their diesel fuel, which is likely to mean that most diesel sold at UK forecourts over this period will contain near the maximum of 5 per cent. biodiesel, with some petrol also containing up to 5 per cent. bioethanol.

The Renewable Fuels Agency, which administers the RTFO, will be reporting on matters such as the nature of the biofuels sold to comply with the RTFO in due course.

Consumer Protection: Tattooing

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to protect consumers who use an organisation providing tattoos and/or tattoo removal in the UK. [207841]

Mr. Thomas: Local authorities have powers to regulate tattooing businesses under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Under this legislation, a tattooing business is required to register with the local authority and observe local byelaws in relation to hygiene and cleanliness of the tattooist, equipment and premises. It is an offence for the tattooing business to trade without being registered or to breach the local byelaws.

Local authorities may also use health and safety at work legislation to regulate tattooing businesses if they judge that there is a risk to customers' health and safety. This allows local authorities to use improvement and prohibition notices, and ultimately to prosecute businesses if necessary.

If consumers are dissatisfied with the quality of the art work or the terms and conditions under which the work is done (as opposed to a health or hygiene issue) they have protection under general consumer law. For example, the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 requires a trader who agrees to provide a service to carry out that service with reasonable care and skill and in a timely manner. It also requires that any goods and materials supplied are of satisfactory quality. If the trader fails to comply with these requirements, the law treats the matter as breach of contract.

The Healthcare Commission currently regulates tattoo removals which are carried out surgically or by using class 3B or 4 laser equipment.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215253]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Employment Tribunals

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims of discrimination on the grounds of *(a)* disability, *(b)* gender reassignment, *(c)* religion, *(d)* sex, *(e)* race, *(f)* age and *(g)* sexual orientation were made to employment tribunals in each of the last 10 years; how many such cases were heard by tribunals in each of those years; and in how many cases heard by a tribunal the claimant was successful in each of those years. [212350]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of discrimination cases received and successful at hearing from 1999-2000 to 2006-07

	1999-2000			*2000-01*		
	Main jurisdiction mix of claims accepted	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*	*All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted*[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*
Sex[2]	4,926	866	233	25,940	1,258	417
Disability	1,743	292	67	4,630	772	185
Race	3,246	632	170	4,238	1,112	220
Religion or belief[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Sexual orientation[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Age[4]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Total	9,915	1,790	470	34,808	3,142	822

	2001-02			*2002-03*		
	All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*	*All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted*[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*
Sex[2]	15,703	1,136	368	11,001	1,121	363
Disability	5,273	618	137	5,310	678	148
Race	3,889	829	129	3,638	725	115
Religion or belief[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Sexual orientation[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Age[4]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Total	24,865	2,583	634	19,949	2,524	626

	2003-04			*2004-05*		
	All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*	*All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted*[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*
Sex[2]	17,722	882	306	11,726	1,076	299
Disability	5,655	587	156	4,942	802	236
Race	3,492	761	120	3,317	710	[5]107
Religion or belief[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Sexual orientation[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Age[4]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Total	26,869	2,230	582	19,985	2,588	642

	2005-06			*2006-07*		
	All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*	*All jurisdiction mix of claims accepted*[1]	*Heard at tribunal*	*Successful at tribunal*
Sex[2]	14,250	4,846	4,068	28,153	1,253	463
Disability	4,585	671	173	5,533	640	149
Race	4,103	719	119	3,780	728	102
Religion or belief[3]	486	72	9	648	112	12
Sexual orientation[3]	395	61	14	470	75	21
Age[4]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	972	11	0
Total	23,819	6,369	4,383	39,556	2,819	747

[1] Claims may have more than one jurisdiction. The reporting of this information changed in 2004 and for consistency figures are given here for all jurisdictional claims with the exception of 1999-2000 figures which are for principal jurisdiction only.

[2] Includes discrimination on grounds of gender reassignment see 'The Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999'

[3] Information is available from 2005-06 onwards following introduction of new legislation.

[4] Information is available from 2006-07 onwards following introduction of new legislation.

[5] Not collected

Note:

It is not possible to ascertain the numbers of withdrawals at hearing therefore withdrawn appeals are excluded.

Source:

Employment Tribunals Service annual report and statistics for the years 1999-2000 to 2005-06 and Employment Appeal Tribunal and Employment Tribunals Service annual statistics 2006-07

Energy: Disconnections

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many customers have been disconnected by energy providers over the last eight quarters, broken down by energy company. [212892]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) collects and publishes data about gas and electricity disconnections. In the eight quarters to quarter 3 2007, the last period for which data have been published, the number of disconnections for debt by supplier was:

Number of customers disconnected for debt each quarter

	2005	2006				2007		
	Q4	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*
Electricity								
British Gas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ecotricity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDF Energy	61	45	66	103	99	71	89	181
Good Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
npower	4	13	51	95	102	117	94	87
npower Northern	2	31	7	5	28	34	22	61
npower Yorkshire	2	4	0	3	41	87	32	46
Powergen	54	107	52	48	26	49	79	124
Scottish and Southern	27	11	26	23	37	50	64	31
Scottish Power	17	2	23	85	124	136	202	142
Telecom Plus (Electricity Plus Supply)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
First Utility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilita	0	0	0	[illegible]	0	0	0	0
Total	168	213	226	362	457	544	582	672
Gas								
British Gas	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Countrywide Gas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
EDF Energy	143	81	118	161	166	120	206	278
npower	171	298	366	382	340	602	543	490
npower Northern	0	40	9	16	56	52	33	54
npower Yorkshire	14	20	20	22	68	57	33	38
Powergen	198	194	163	188	99	189	153	293
Scottish and Southern	142	78	156	172	187	162	293	132
Scottish Power	30	12	30	171	241	205	277	177
Telecom Plus (Gas Plus Supply)	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
First Utility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilita	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	698	723	865	1,112	1,159	1,389	1,538	1,462
Total electricity and gas	866	936	1,091	1,474	1,616	1,933	2,120	2,134

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic games; for what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212120]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend the Minister for Trade Promotion and Investment will be in Beijing from Thursday 21 August - Tuesday 26 August and will attend the closing ceremony only of the Olympic games.

The purpose of Lord Jones' visit is to promote British business capability, foreign direct investment and partnership opportunities in general as well as business opportunities arising from the London 2012 games. During his visit Lord Jones will support several key business events and initiatives.

Seals: Animal Products

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the recent discussions with the European Commission on the introduction of an EU-wide ban on the importation of seal products; and if he will make a statement. [215389]

Mr. Thomas: We expect the European Commission to announce shortly what measures it intends to propose concerning the trade in seal products.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213716]

Mr. Thomas: The Departments accounts system does not report the information requested in this format. BERR's published annual report and accounts contains information on its tangible fixed assets, which includes an additions category entitled "furniture, fixtures and fittings". These accounts can be found on the BERR website at the following address:

http://www.berr.gov.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the rate of voter registration was in the 100 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland *(a)* one year before and *(b)* one year after the introduction of individual registration. [211522]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for the maintenance of the electoral register and inquiries relating to the rate of voter registration in Northern Ireland should be made directly to him.

Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when Article 18 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 will be commenced. [215257]

Paul Goggins: Article 18 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 was a statement of intent by the Government to align the definition of a juvenile under PACE with other legislation and International Conventions. Its inclusion was on the proviso that commencement could only take place when a supporting infrastructure was in place to facilitate its effective introduction. A programme of work is currently underway and it is envisaged that these measures will be in place by late 2009.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Expenditure

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what costs were incurred for *(a)* subsistence and *(b)* flights for staff of the Historical Enquiries Team in each year since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [213373]

Paul Goggins: The Historical Enquiries Team have provided me with the following answer.

The HET began its work in January 2006. Costs incurred for subsistence from this date are not readily identifiable or available. Costs in relation to flights for HET staff are detailed in the following table.

HET flight costs

	£
2006-07	213,015.77
2007-08	270,599.81
1 April 2008 to date	61,002.00

Terrorism

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former members of the (i) Police Service of Northern Ireland, (ii) Royal Irish Regiment and (iii) Northern Ireland Prison Service have moved from their homes after being targeted by (A) Republican and (B) Loyalist paramilitaries in the last 12 months. [213605]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the information[1] requested from June 2007 to June 2008.

	Former members		*Serving members*	
Attribution	*Republican*	*Loyalist*	*Republican*	*Loyalist*
PSNI	1	0	10	1
RIR	0	0	0	0
NIPS	0	0	1	1

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in *(a)* assisting the police force in the Irish Republic in the apprehension of those responsible for the murder of Paul Quinn and *(b)* ensuring that the IRA Army Council disbands as a matter of urgency. [214765]

Paul Goggins: PSNI has confirmed that they are actively involved in the investigation into Paul Quinn's murder and meet regularly with An Garda Siochana to monitor progress.

It is Government's view that all vestiges of Northern Ireland's paramilitary history, including the Army Council, should be relegated to the past where they belong.

JUSTICE

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215174]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 241W.

The Department does not hold information on organising and hosting conferences centrally and an answer to the above question can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213415]

Mr. Wills: At 31 March 2008 the Ministry of Justice had relocated 600 civil service posts from London and the South East against a target of 280 posts under the Lyons relocation policy.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212051]

Maria Eagle: In 2007-08 The Ministry of Justice and its agencies spent a total of £263,890 on marketing and branding. The breakdown is given as follows:

	£	
	Marketing	*Branding*
Ministry of Justice	55,000	71,956
Her Majesty's Courts Service	2,100	0
National Offender Management Service including HM Prison Service and National Probation Service	132,059	0
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	0	446
Office of the Public Guardian	27,329	0
Tribunals Service	0	0
Total	216,488	47,402

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213523]

Mr. Wills: The responses for each element of the Department are as follows:

---

[1] The statistics are provided on the basis that a member may not necessarily be targeted, but rather a threat exists which if not actioned could lead to the officer being at risk of serious injury or death were they to remain at their home address.

MOJ Headquarters

New furnishings	
	£ million
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0.847

This represents capitalised expenditure; resource expenditure is not separately identifiable. These figures may not include a small amount purchased as part of building upgrades.

£0.502 million of the 2007-08 expenditure relates to technical, advisory, artistic and management fees in respect of the fit-out of the new Supreme Court building at Middlesex Guildhall. The remainder represents furniture for the Ministry's new headquarters building at 102 Petty France.

Art

There has been £95,000 spent on art for the new headquarters building, against a total budget of £470,000. This budget covers four art installations currently works in progress.

New Vehicles

The department leases all vehicles through its Office of Government Commerce contracts; there is no purchasing of new vehicles:

Leased vehicles for MOJ Headquarters, HMCS and tribunals	
	£ million
2005-06	1.1
2006-07	1.2
2007-08	1.5

HMCS

Furnishings	
	£ million
2005-06	0.419
2006-07	0.925
2007-08	1.019

This represents capitalised expenditure; resource expenditure is not separately identifiable. These figures may not include a small amount purchased as part of building upgrades.

Art

This category of expenditure is not separately identifiable.

New Vehicles

Figures included above.

Tribunals Service

Furnishings	
	£
2006-07	[1]
2007-08	[2]

[1] Capitalised nil; non-capitalised £56,000.

[2] Capitalised £139,000 (includes £33,000 for storage systems); non-capitalised £73,000.

Art

Nil.

New Vehicles

Figures included above.

The Tribunals Service did not exist in 05-06, hence no figures provided.

HMPS

Furnishings

HMPS policy is to make furniture in-house from raw materials sourced from a range of suppliers, rather than buy the furniture as finished products.

Art

Nil.

Vehicles

Total value of new vehicles purchased in 2007-08 was £3,215,278. This equates to 174 purchased vehicles covering a wide range of vehicle types from pool cars, minibuses, and vans to heavy goods vehicles. It does not include expenditure on mechanical handling equipment such as fork lift trucks, dumper trucks, and tugs.

HMPS Transport Unit has only been under the direction of the Ministry of Justice since last year and therefore only figures for 2007-08 have been provided.

NOMS Centre

Furniture and fittings	
	£000
2005-06	31
2006-07	4
2007-08	0

These figures may not include a small amount purchased as part of building upgrades.

Art and Leased Vehicles

These categories of expenditure are not separately identifiable.

Purchased vehicles

Nil

Probation Boards

Furnishings	
	£000
2005-06	562
2006-07	555
2007-08	0

This represents capitalised expenditure; resource expenditure is not separately identifiable. These figures may not include a small amount purchased as part of building upgrades.

Art

This category of expenditure is not separately identifiable.

New Vehicles	
	£ million
2005-06	1.2
2006-07	0.9
2007-08	0.7

OPG

Furnishings	
	£000
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	44

Art

Nil.

New Vehicles

Nil.

Central Government Departments actively seek to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. From April 2009, departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) initiative.

The Government also funds a Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) which provides free advice and guidance to help all public sector buyers and their suppliers meet the policy.

Driving Offences: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence handed down by courts in England and Wales was for people convicted of motoring offences that resulted in a fatality in each of the last five years. [215007]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons sentenced[1] by result and average custodial sentence length[2] for motoring offences that resulted in a fatality, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

Number of persons and average custodial sentence length (months)

	Offence description	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Average custodial sentence length*
2002	Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality[3]			6	17	13	268	1	39.2
2003	Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality[3]	1		1	7	11	286	1	42.5
2004	Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality[3]	1		3	9	13	288		43.5
2005	Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality[3]		1	3	20	11	308		43.7
2006	Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality[3]			2	8	8	280	1	42.6

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Figures are given in months.

[3] Motoring offences that resulted in a fatality that have been identified include:
Causing death by dangerous driving
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
Aggravated taking of a vehicle—Where, owing to the driving of the vehicle, an accident occurs causing the death of any person.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Fines: Surcharges

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the victim surcharge raised in each Government Office region in its first year of operation. [214293]

Maria Eagle: The victims surcharge has been levied on fines at a rate of £15 since April 2007. Information about receipts is available by court service regions, which do not correspond exactly to Government office regions. The following table assigns victims surcharge receipts for April 2007 to March 2008, the first year of operation of the surcharge, as closely as possible to Government office regions.

Victims surcharge receipts 2007-08

Region	£
London	549,063
East and West Midlands	731,775
Yorkshire, Humberside and North East	608,095
North West	510,103
South East and East	730,606
South West	410,656
Wales	242,893
Total	3,783,191

In the year of introduction, victims surcharge receipts were less than the £16 million estimated for a fully operational year. Arrangements were put in place for any shortfall in funding committed to victims services to be made good from elsewhere in the Ministry of Justice vote.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property. [211594]

Maria Eagle: During the financial year 2007-08, the Ministry of Justice's custodial property sold £12,132,999 of surplus land and property which included approximately 50 houses. These houses were declared surplus to the operational estate. These properties were identified in the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1424-27W. 20 of these were marketed post December 2007 and were therefore sold with home information packs.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about *(a)* data protection and *(b)* freedom of information the Information Commissioner (i) received and (ii) completed investigations on in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [214468]

Mr. Wills: During the financial year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Information Commissioner's Office dealt with the following freedom of information and data protection casework.

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Received	*Completed*	*Received*	*Completed*	*Received*	*Completed*
DPA	22,059	21,887	23,988	24,084	24,851	25,592
FOIA	2,713	1,666	2,592	2,601	2,646	2,658

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the time taken by the Information Commissioner to *(a)* acknowledge and *(b)* investigate a complaint in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [214469]

(2) what the average time taken was by the Information Commissioner to *(a)* acknowledge receipt, *(b)* institute action and *(c)* complete the investigation of cases referred to him under (i) freedom of information and (ii) data protection legislation (A) in the most recent period for which figures are available and (B) in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [214472]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office's (ICO) policy is to resolve complaints at first examination where appropriate. In these cases, no initial acknowledgment is sent. In all other cases, an acknowledgment letter is sent to the complainant advising what will happen next, and the complaint is referred to the appropriate ICO department.

The most recent period for which figures are available is the 2007-08 financial year. In 2007-08, 35 per cent. of all data protection cases and 54 per cent. of all freedom of information cases were resolved with the first letter to the complainant. 52 per cent. of all data protection and freedom of information cases were resolved within 14 calendar days of receipt, with 100 per cent. of these cases resolved or referred for investigation in under 40 calendar days.

In 2007-08, it took an average of 69 calendar days from receipt to allocate freedom of information cases to a case officer. In total it took an average of 182 calendar days (including the time taken to allocate each case) to resolve the freedom of information cases closed during the year.

In 2007-08, it took an average of 30 calendar days from receipt to allocate data protection cases to a case officer. In total it took an average of 45 calendar days (including the time taken to allocate each case), to resolve the data protection cases closed during the year.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the resources available to the Information Commissioner to investigate his workload of complaints promptly. [214470]

Mr. Wills: The Government are committed to both freedom of information and data protection. An important part of that commitment is ensuring that the Information Commissioner is adequately funded to fulfil all of his statutory responsibilities. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) regularly review the resources available to the Commissioner and as part of that dialogue my Department provides constructive challenge to ensure that the ICO delivers maximum efficiency and secures best value for the public money allocated for those statutory responsibilities.

The ICO's freedom of information work is funded by grant in aid paid through my department. In response to business cases presented by the ICO, in each of the last four financial years my Department has paid the ICO a larger sum in grant in aid than the amount in the original baseline for each year. In addition, my Department is promoting a secondment scheme to assist the ICO in tackling the outstanding backlog of freedom of information cases. Secondees from central Government Departments, paid for by their Departments, will work at the ICO on the outstanding freedom of information cases.

The Commissioner's data protection work is funded separately through notification fees paid by data controllers under s.26 of the Data Protection Act 1998, which his office retains with the agreement of HM Treasury. In 2006-07, this was £10,200,000.

As I made clear in my response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' 22nd Report, the Government are currently considering the Commissioner's case for increased resources for his data protection work. This includes the recommendation of the House of Common's Justice Committee report "Protection of Private Data" (January 2008) that a graduated fee scale be introduced to replace the current flat fee that applies to all data controllers.

My Department will continue to ensure that if the ICO is required to undertake additional or new responsibilities then these will be appropriately funded. For example, it was announced in November 2007 that the ICO would carry out spot checks of central Government Departments. The Departments being checked will pay the costs of the spot checks.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will discuss with the Information Commissioner the prompt acknowledgement of complaints from *(a)* the general public and *(b)* hon. Members; and if he will make a statement; [214471]

(2) if he will discuss with the Information Commissioner the prioritisation of complaints to him by hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [214473]

Mr. Wills: I meet regularly with the Information Commissioner to discuss operational issues.

The Information Commissioner's Office's (ICO) current policy is to resolve complaints on first examination whenever possible. No initial acknowledgement is sent in these circumstances. Instead, a case that can be dealt with quickly is resolved on first examination. In all other cases, an acknowledgment letter is sent to the complainant advising what will happen next and the complaint is referred to an appropriate ICO department. The ICO aims to resolve or acknowledge all complaints within 14 calendar days of receipt.

However, mindful of the need to keep its customers as well informed as possible and that delays can arise, the ICO is currently considering ways to automatically acknowledge all complaints as they arrive.

Prioritisation of cases that relate to particular issues or events is considered on a case by case basis. Likewise, if a complaint raised by an hon. Member raises an issue which the ICO feels necessitates its prioritisation over a complaint made by a member of the public it will similarly consider this on a case by case basis.

Magistrates: Resignations

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates are expected to leave the magistracy in the financial year 2008-09. [215779]

Mr. Straw: 811 magistrates are due to retire during the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The number of magistrates leaving for all reasons (including retirement, resignation, death etc.) varies widely but averages approximately 1,500 per annum.

Magistrates: Wales

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates are employed in courts in Wales; how many of those are expected to leave the magistracy in 2008-09; and how many magistrates his Department expects to recruit to courts in Wales in 2008-09. [215780]

Mr. Straw: At the financial year ending 31 March 2008, there were 1,939 serving magistrates throughout Wales.

During the financial year 2008-09, 55 magistrates are expected to retire, or have already retired. An unknown number of magistrates are expected to leave due to other reasons such as resignation, transfer etc.

During the financial year 2008-09, it is expected that 136 magistrates will be recruited throughout Wales. This is based on predicted business need.

Parking Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much income was derived by local authorities and police authorities from parking *(a)* charges and *(b)* penalties in each financial year since 1997-98; and what proportion was collected through penalty charge notices in each of these years; [214738]

(2) how many parking enforcement tickets were issued in each police authority in England in each year since 1997. [214739]

Mr. Straw: Available information from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) on police issued fixed penalty notices is provided in the table. The data, available on a calendar year basis, do not distinguish between obstruction, waiting and parking enforcements.

Information on revenue generated from fixed penalties and penalty charge notices is not collected centrally. The fixed penalty information on amount paid in the table does not take into account money generated from action taken as a result of non-payment nor money reimbursed from cases that reached adjudication. No information on amounts paid is collected centrally for penalty charge notices.

Fixed penalty notices issued by police force area for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[1, 2], England, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*Number of tickets* *2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	58,114	52,920	49,526	34,552	25,831	22,482	17,652	14,211	10,112	11,067
Bedfordshire	35,469	34,592	5,175	3,487	2,991	3,602	2,235	814	579	777
Cambridgeshire	32,501	28,780	30,387	32,676	33,287	32,237	22,460	9,680	3,240	4,645
Cheshire	32,260	30,186	25,925	19,251	17,532	15,777	15,939	14,842	11,203	11,180
Cleveland	21,700	22,866	18,634	15,487	10,635	15,723	8,522	4,598	2,955	862
Cumbria	20,802	23,164	12,954	5,860	5,758	2,387	1,816	558	609	699
Derbyshire	23,873	25,999	22,926	22,259	18,792	16,411	15,781	13,250	8,432	5,855
Devon and Cornwall	80,535	84,879	77,911	77,877	59,410	59,635	57,701	53,325	44,491	41,985
Dorset	40,725	32,790	32,708	31,259	25,500	8,034	635	371	305	494
Durham	15,041	15,914	12,140	16,084	12,522	12,500	5,668	1,925	1,755	4,183
Essex	59,758	58,928	49,235	40,662	29,773	23,535	9,957	8,204	3,127	3,128
Gloucestershire	33,418	31,067	28,468	28,528	26,500	26,411	27,704	21,889	14,503	14,521
Greater Manchester	166,249	141,898	78,849	71,059	43,383	34,823	27,964	21,646	13,303	8,893
Hampshire	70,480	66,256	50,945	31,627	40,024	22,699	18,392	13,792	12,022	7,427

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] by police force area for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[2, 3], England, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

Number of tickets

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hertfordshire	52,956	31,222	36,066	32,577	32,712	27,054	9,217	6,496	2,335	1,525
Humberside	29,030	25,993	23,912	26,598	25,704	26,506	25,504	27,068	28,256	15,967
Kent	65,044	58,712	48,758	3,685	1,712	1,090	985	953	783	820
Lancashire	94,883	82,845	71,464	64,935	55,998	47,733	31,779	17,717	1,939	1,717
Leicestershire	53,343	49,080	45,725	37,990	39,888	41,654	31,024	20,357	4,126	20,993
Lincolnshire	29,067	26,650	15,488	15,895	15,725	16,659	18,563	18,201	14,362	11,631
London, City of	666	1,109	728	438	513	741	681	188	238	235
Merseyside	98,235	97,522	86,924	61,249	49,971	35,992	17,602	13,648	17,038	13,946
Metropolitan Police	160,851	205,877	192,110	196,992	141,797	141,968	209,221	162,463	27,739	25,006
Norfolk	36,350	30,755	26,389	25,339	23,880	10,138	9,532	8,109	7,175	n/a
Northamptonshire	29,576	27,854	21,274	12,874	7,988	4,457	3,701	2,197	2,037	3,072
Northumbria	47,599	45,656	40,384	44,696	57,804	48,685	30,439	42,426	19,700	17,543
North Yorkshire	22,132	19,977	20,439	13,531	14,435	9,436	5,670	7,031	5,881	5,099
Nottinghamshire	42,023	37,006	34,871	31,527	24,515	13,387	6,635	7,676	4,490	5,369
South Yorkshire	28,260	30,854	26,705	28,948	30,366	29,362	27,556	18,873	6,067	1,293
Staffordshire	26,456	27,468	21,260	11,941	9,161	7,276	8,411	9,348	9,919	9,666
Suffolk	23,043	21,758	20,575	20,839	18,953	20,440	20,197	20,119	14,388	5,421
Surrey	25,620	25,407	20,550	21,435	22,962	25,044	16,130	9,717	7,449	3,892
Sussex	120,257	111,866	101,976	119,771	71,971	47,516	46,183	48,178	45,199	41,087
Thames Valley	77,977	76,949	66,457	51,921	37,414	34,611	24,785	22,121	20,478	5,787
Warwickshire	15,551	18,022	16,749	13,802	15,355	16,556	14,041	13,627	10,975	8,930
West Mercia	26,225	26,142	28,690	22,737	17,108	17,384	12,454	9,198	6,412	5,804
West Midlands	156,274	148,970	119,890	88,154	64,048	46,446	53,133	46,138	33,695	27,463
West Yorkshire	69,618	63,563	60,342	61,144	55,303	55,982	54,178	59,016	38,017	22,928
Wiltshire	16,030	15,454	12,897	10,211	7,451	8,395	5,618	2,388	2,792	2,206
England	2,037,991	1,956,950	1,656,406	1,449,897	1,194,672	1,030,768	915,665	767,768	458,126	373,116
Dyfed-Powys	14,460	14,176	18,032	17,483	13,863	17,081	13,780	9,482	10,208	10,175
Gwent	20,884	22,116	20,668	19,590	17,765	19,041	19,714	17,316	14,414	17,450
North Wales	21,752	19,181	16,473	16,080	13,127	10,584	12,272	8,729	6,638	4,971
South Wales	104,155	105,654	96,574	92,310	85,622	87,532	81,575	79,205	84,111	84,236
Wales	161,251	161,127	151,747	145,463	130,377	134,238	127,341	114,732	115,371	116,832
England and Wales	2,199,242	2,118,077	1,808,153	1,595,360	1,325,049	1,165,006	1,043,006	882,500	573,497	489,948

n/a = data not available

[1] Paid i.e. no further action. For 2006, Norfolk police were unable to submit data due to technical reasons.

[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss.173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175 (2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190; Highway Act 1835 ss 72 and 78; RTA1888 ss. 19 • 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss 5 (1), 8, 32-38 and 45-53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 Regs. 101 and 103; Transport Act 2000 Part III, Metropolitan Police Act 1839 s. 54 (1).

[3] Does not include Decriminalised Parking Enforcements (DPE).

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent per prisoner per year in the latest period for which figures are available. [214290]

Mr. Hanson: In 2006-07 the average resource cost per prisoner was £37,500. The figure includes the total expenditure of HM Prison Service and also prison-related expenditure met centrally by the National Offender Management Service. Expenditure on health and education met by other Government Departments is not included.

Safety Belts: Children

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W, on safety belts: children, how many persons have been prosecuted for offences relating to transporting children under the age of 12 years in vehicles without an appropriate car seat since September 2006. [215799]

Maria Eagle: Available information held centrally by my Department on the prosecution of seat belt offences is only in respect of the person being prosecuted (age, gender and outcome in court) and does not cover the circumstances of each case.

Tribunals: Employment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to enforce decisions made by employment tribunals. [214802]

Bridget Prentice: Employment tribunals cannot enforce their awards. However, awards can be enforced in the county court. The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act of 2007 will allow the claimant to go straight to bailiffs for enforcement rather than through registration at a county court. Implementation of these procedures is currently scheduled for April 2009.

TREASURY

Car Allowances

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 536W, on car allowances, whether he plans to publish the results of the review. [209989]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 11 June 2008]*: Following analysis of the information received during the review into the taxation of business travel, a report will be published in due course this year. A final date is yet to be set.

Charitable Donations

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised for charities through payroll giving in the last year for which figures are available. [215788]

Jane Kennedy: Figures on amounts raised for charities through payroll giving can be found on the National Statistics website at the link provided. The 2007-08 figure is provisional and subject to change.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-8.pdf

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's analysis of the care vouchers system. [215016]

Jane Kennedy: There is no official data collected on the number of employers who offer or employees who receive childcare vouchers. Employers are not required to report this data to HMRC.

HMRC commissioned research by the National Centre for Social Research into the reform of the Income Tax and National Insurance rules for employer supported childcare. This report was published in December 2006 and is available on the HMRC website at the following link

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm.

Child Tax Credit: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Tamworth constituency were in receipt of child tax credit in each year since the tax credit was introduced; and how much was paid in credits in that area in each such year. [215839]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Estimates of the number of families with tax credits, including information on average annual entitlements, in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in each local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The information on the number of out-of-work families includes those who are receiving child support through income support and jobseeker's allowance.

East Midlands Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the East Midlands Development Agency has received from HM Treasury in each of the financial years for which figures are available. [214776]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The RDAs' are financed through a Single Budget, which pools money from six contributing Government Departments.

The following table shows East Midlands Development Agency's annual budgets.

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	176
2006-07	161
2005-06	168
2004-05	119
2003-04	117
2002-03	101
2001-02	86
2000-01	67
1999-2000	41

Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of his Department's staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud and *(b)* defrauding the tax credit system in each of the last 10 years, and if he will make a statement; [214511]

(2) how many of his Department's staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud or *(b)* defrauding the child trust fund system in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214518]

(3) how many of his Department's staff were prosecuted for *(a)* attempting to defraud or *(b)* defrauding his Department in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214519]

(4) what estimate he has made of the losses to his Department from fraud committed by staff in the child trust fund system in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214520]

(5) what estimate he has made of the losses to his Department from fraud committed by staff of his Department in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214521]

(6) how many employees in his Department *(a)* defrauded and *(b)* attempted to defraud the child trust fund system in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement; [214522]

(7) how many staff in his Department were responsible for each instance of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* attempted fraud in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [214523]

(8) on how many occasions staff employed by his Department have defrauded his Department in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [214524]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no prosecutions or internal disciplinary cases on the basis of fraud in HM Treasury for any of the last 10 years other than in 2006. The procedures for investigating cases of fraud were initiated less than five times in 2006. Exact numbers are therefore not available on the grounds of confidentiality.

Prior to 2005, the Treasury only kept records of disciplinary cases that were proven. Information on fraud cases that were initiated but not proven is not available.

Estimates for losses incurred by HM Treasury are not available and cannot be provided because this would involve disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley was *(a)* originally earmarked to remain open and *(b)* subsequently scheduled for closure; [214107]

(2) what conclusions were reached as a result of the initial consultation and feasibility work on whether Chorley HM Revenue and Customs office should be scheduled for closure; [214176]

(3) for what reasons *(a)* Bolton, *(b)* Blackburn and *(c)* St Helens HM Revenue and Customs office will now remain open. [214177]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC took a range of issues into consideration before recommendations for all its offices in the north west urban centres, including those in Chorley, Bolton, Blackburn and St. Helens, were put to me for a decision. These included responses from staff, unions and other key stakeholders; analysis of staff travel; estimated estates savings; and any socio-economic impacts.

During the period of feasibility work following the consultation exercise, HMRC business units revisited their plans for delivering their long-term operations and decided they could operate more effectively by consolidating elsewhere. Detailed feasibility work also showed that staff from Chorley could be accommodated elsewhere with larger teams.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet staff at Chorley HM Revenue and Customs office to discuss the decision to close the office. [214102]

Jane Kennedy: The decision to withdraw from the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Lingmell House, Chorley, was announced to staff on 29 February 2008.

As the Minister responsible for HMRC I have already visited a number of HMRC offices, and will continue to do so. However, there are no current plans to visit the Chorley office at this time.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on residents of Chorley of the closure of Chorley HM Revenue and Customs office; [214103]

(2) what account was taken of current and future population growth in Chorley in the decision to close the Chorley HM Revenue and Customs office. [214104]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC takes into account a range of issues during consultation before recommendations are put to Ministers, including socio-economic impacts. No specific account has been taken of current and future population growth in Chorley. The effects on residents of Chorley of the proposal to vacate the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in the town will be minimal.

Very little of the work currently carried out in local HMRC offices actually relates to the communities in which those offices are located, as most of HMRC's business is arranged on national lines. Although a decision has been taken to vacate the HMRC office in Chorley, its inquiry centre services will remain at the same location or nearby. HMRC customers will therefore still have access to face-to-face services should they need them.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the performance of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley against its objectives. [214108]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) workforce change programme is designed to modernise HMRC's operations by restructuring its office accommodation in line with future business needs. The primary reason any office is proposed for closure is that the business units based there can operate more effectively by consolidating elsewhere. This is not a reflection on the current performance of staff in the offices affected.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the decision to close the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley was announced on a later date than decisions to close other tax offices. [214109]

Jane Kennedy: The decision to withdraw from the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Lingmell House, Chorley was announced on 29 February 2008; the same time as the decisions for the other HMRC offices in the North West urban centre review.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allocate some of the tax credits work due to be undertaken at St. Helens HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office to Chorley HMRC office. [214089]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has no plans to move tax credits work to its office in Chorley.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what account was taken of the fact that HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley is in a purpose built building in deciding whether to close the office; [214100]

(2) what account was taken of standards of accommodation in Blackburn HM Revenue and Customs office in deciding whether to keep the office open. [214101]

Jane Kennedy: Estates issues including the cost of buildings and their capacity for being adapted to accommodate additional staff are among a number of factors which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) considers when recommending offices for retention or closure to meet its overall objective of retaining the offices that best meet its future business needs. HMRC's strategic estates partner Mapeley is required to ensure that all HMRC accommodation meets prescribed standards.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs are expected to be lost if planned closures to HM Revenue and Customs offices take place in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* the North West; and if he will make a statement. [214117]

Jane Kennedy: The decision to withdraw from the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Lingmell House, Chorley will result in the 77 staff at that office relocating to other offices within the North West urban centre. A small number of staff will be required to provide enquiry centre services which will remain in Chorley.

At 1 April 2008 HMRC had a staffing headcount of 14,746 across the North West as a whole. By 31 March 2011 the present estimate for staff required in the region is 14,050. This is based on the latest business planning projections and may be subject to change.

Revenue and Customs: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs are expected to be lost if planned closures of HM Revenue and Customs offices take place in *(a)* Crewe and *(b)* the North West; and if he will make a statement. [214476]

Jane Kennedy: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Crewe is being reviewed as a cluster with Macclesfield and Northwich. No decision has yet been taken to retain or vacate any of these offices.

The eventual reduction in staff numbers in the cluster will depend upon the outcome of the review. Inquiry centre services will however be maintained in the locality. In the longer run HMRC aims to deliver better value to the taxpayer by operating more effectively with fewer staff.

At 1 April 2008 HMRC had a staff headcount of 14,746 across the North West as a whole. By 31 March 2011 the present estimate for staff required in the region is 14,050. This is based on the latest business planning projections and may be subject to change.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the HM Revenue and Customs office in Crewe was *(a)* originally earmarked to remain open and *(b)* subsequently scheduled for closure. [214477]

Jane Kennedy: Proposals for the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Crewe, which for review purposes has been grouped with Macclesfield and Northwich, have only recently been announced under HMRC's regional review programme.

These proposals, published for consultation on 11 June, envisage withdrawal from Crewe but final decisions have not yet been taken. Whatever the outcome of the review, an inquiry centre service offering face to face advice to HMRC customers will remain in Crewe.

Revenue and Customs: Resignations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary exit schemes at HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea, for staff at each grade in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [210507]

Jane Kennedy: No staff have left HMRC in Southend on involuntary exit schemes. HMRC are committed to avoiding redundancies wherever possible and to helping staff find alternative posts either within the Department or elsewhere.

Three voluntary exit schemes are currently available for all HMRC staff.

Approved Early Retirement (AER) is for permanent staff age 50 to 60 with at least five years qualifying service and offers immediate access to accrued pension benefits without actuarial reductions, but without any enhancement.

Flexible Early Severance (FES) is for permanent staff age under 50 with at least one year qualifying service, or for those age 50 to 60 with between one and five years qualifying service. The benefits payable vary according to length of service

Public Sector Release Scheme (PSRS), is for permanent members of staff with at least one year service and satisfactory completion of their probation period. Staff who leave on this scheme enter into a period of training that leads to a professional qualification required for employment in a role within the wider public sector in, for example, medical professions in the NHS. Eligible staff receive a one off lump sum payment and financial support for their first year's training costs.

The statistics for staff in Southend who have left HMRC under any of these schemes are set out in the following tables. Figures are available only for the periods 2005-06 onwards for AER, 2006-07 onwards for PSRS and 2008-09 for FES. There will be further exits in 2008-09 across HMRC but it is not possible to say how much will be spent on exits from Southend.

Exits on Approved Early Retirement schemes

	Grade	*Total at each Grade*	*Costs per Grade/Year (£)*
2005/06	AA	1	1,905.44
	AO	3	59,514.52

	Grade	*Total at each Grade*	*Costs per Grade/Year (£)*
	O	5	126,363.43
	HO	9	674,268.58
	SO	20	1,784,736.02
	Grade 6/7	4	347,830.19
Total		42	2,994,618.20
2006/07	AO	6	160,817.27
	HO	3	178,287.02
	SO	3	202,620.12
	Grade 6	2	257,029.31
Total		14	798,753.73
2007/08	AO	1	51,874.75
	HO	2	37,499.51
	Grade 7	1	56,502.17
	Grade 6	1	51,127.48
Total		5	197,003.90
Grand Total		61	3,990,375.83

Exits on the Flexible Early Severance scheme

A FES scheme was not available for staff in Southend in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The current scheme was made available in April 2008 and to date there have been no departures of staff in Southend.

Exits on the Public Sector Release Scheme

PSRS is a new scheme that has only been available since November 2006. There has been only one departure as follows:

	Grade	*Total*	*Cost (£)*
2006/07	Administrative Assistant	1	9,211.33
Total		1	9,211.33
2007/08		0	0.00
Total		0	0.00

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what reports were commissioned by Ministers to determine the effects of the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate on low earners; [211789]

(2) whether any external consultants were employed to determine the effects of the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate on low earners. [211790]

Jane Kennedy: As the Chancellor made clear to the Treasury Committee on 4 June, the distributional effects are considered when changes to taxation are made. No reports were commissioned or external consultants employed.

Melli Bank Plc

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the EU's decision to proscribe the Iranian bank Melli on the operations of Melli Bank Plc in the UK. [215291]

Kitty Ussher: The impact is detailed in a notice on HM Treasury's website, 'Financial sanctions: Supplement to Notice on Iran of 24 June 2008—Bank Melli Iran and Melli Bank plc'. This is publicly available on the financial sanctions pages at:

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk./documents/financial_services/sanctions/currentregimes/fin_sanctions_iran.cfm#nr

Taxation: Self-assessment

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the cost of an enquiry into self assessment tax returns HM Revenue and Customs will pay, with particular reference to those which show no irregularities; and if he will make a statement. [215339]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* As a general rule, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not pay or reimburse the costs that a person incurs in meeting their taxation obligations; this includes costs of complying with an enquiry into a return.

However, where HMRC mistakes or unreasonable delay have added to those costs unnecessarily, the Department will consider the matter under its ex gratia redress policy and reimburse reasonable amounts that have arisen directly from its mistakes or unreasonable delay. HMRC makes every effort to keep down its customers' compliance costs and to limit enquiries and requests for information to what is strictly necessary. It is an undertaking to customers stated in HMRC's codes of practice and other publications. There are no set amounts or percentages available as decisions are made on a case by case basis.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of tax credits in reducing the number of children in poverty. [215425]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received on the tax credit system from residents in Tamworth constituency in the last 12 months. [215838]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many schedules to repay tax credits overpayments where the last repayment date falls *(a)* before 2010, *(b)* from 2010 to 2014, *(c)* from 2015 to 2019, *(d)* from 2020 to 2024 and *(e)* in 2025 or later have been issued by his Department in the last 12 months. [215156]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Pupil Exclusions

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been permanently excluded from each academy school since their inception; what assessment he has made of how this figure compares with *(a)* all secondary schools, *(b)* maintained secondary schools and *(c)* denominational secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [215584]

Kevin Brennan: The number of permanent exclusions from each academy, the number of permanent exclusions from state funded secondary schools and the number of permanent exclusions from local authority maintained secondary schools in each year since 2002-03 to 2005-06 are provided in the table. Local authority level exclusions data relating to the 2006-07 school year are expected to be available from 10 July 2008. Further analysis of the trends in exclusions from academies will also be available from 10 July.

Information on the number of exclusions from denominational schools could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

As a group, academies have an overall pattern of exclusions that is almost identical to the pattern for a control group of similar schools.

Academies often inherit a large number of disengaged pupils and need to establish good behaviour in order to raise attainment. Academies place great emphasis on getting the basics right and improving behaviour in particular. As the new ethos and behaviour policy are implemented in an academy's early days, the number of exclusions may rise, but it typically falls as behaviour improves. This phenomenon is not unique to academies—the same effect is often observed when a new head teacher transforms a struggling maintained school.

A paper illustrating the pattern of exclusions and comparing exclusions in academies with a control group of schools with similar characteristics has been placed in the House Library. The chart included in this paper shows the overall distribution of exclusions in academies and a group of control schools.

Adult Education: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Learning and Skills Council spent on non-vocational adult education in the London borough of Islington in each of the last five years; and what expenditure is planned for 2008-09. [214616]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring that learning serves the needs of the whole community and that everyone has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life. Non-vocational adult education courses offer a wide range of social and economic benefits for adults of all ages and backgrounds. We know that they help individuals to progress into qualification-bearing courses and have well-documented benefits in terms of personal health and well-being. Our recent consultation on informal adult learning is a measure of our commitment to this kind of learning and our intention to create a new vision of informal adult learning for the 21st century.

The exact makeup and distribution of learning provision at local level are operational matters for local Learning and Skills Councils and their partners in colleges and other providers, according to their assessment of local needs and priorities. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive will write to the hon. Gentleman with more detailed information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided to each London local authority to support the provision of child care since 1996-97. [214414]

Beverley Hughes: Grant allocations for Sure Start, early years and child care in respect of the London local authorities are shown in the following tables.

Sure start, early years and child care grant allocations for London authorities

	Revenue						
LA	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Barking and Dagenham	59,000	168,600	836,940	1,283,492	1,210,202	1,268,152	4,739,322
Barnet	78,000	272,800	511,622	1,264,180	1,222,273	1,092,598	2,699,355
Bexley	66,000	185,000	604,950	1,124,084	1,025,045	827,236	2,446,708
Brent	71,000	262,200	897,482	1,469,711	1,369,602	1,189,350	4,774,918
Bromley	72,000	229,100	540,681	1,219,523	1,085,873	1,315,599	2,533,178
Camden	57,000	174,900	700,073	1,163,522	1,068,959	940,521	5,524,350
City of London	10,000	35,000	50,500	233,620	209,267	243,400	222,193
Croydon	82,000	327,000	809,255	1,542,754	1,459,485	1,462,948	3,219,008
Ealing	77,000	292,000	912,085	1,591,728	1,526,412	1,569,502	4,421,036
Enfield	72,000	249,900	871,660	1,496,044	1,431,150	1,216,806	3,480,583
Greenwich	0	271,800	1,044,999	1,659,891	1,567,666	1,299,565	6,765,630
Hackney	66,000	313,800	1,206,684	1,783,046	1,643,406	2,153,667	9,023,808
Hammersmith and Fulham	53,000	153,900	560,041	997,079	920,864	1,031,910	3,920,967
Haringey	65,000	257,000	1,019,902	1,583,432	1,440,329	1,626,421	7,052,957
Harrow	64,000	169,500	248,100	729,111	650,226	676,273	1,261,427
Havering	65,000	176,200	549,703	1,025,175	946,605	868,011	2,250,576

Sure start, early years and child care grant allocations for London authorities

LA	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
				Revenue			
Hillingdon	69,000	199,200	395,385	979,833	805,039	1,009,627	2,496,147
Hounslow	64,000	201,700	609,986	1,101,175	961,194	926,776	2,403,421
Islington	59,000	226,600	921,271	1,411,287	1,324,991	1,121,457	7,142,179
Kensington and Chelsea	51,000	144,500	521,253	914,733	813,286	824,500	2,716,202
Kingston upon Thames	53,000	97,600	149,412	589,486	554,183	575,160	965,844
Lambeth	73,000	344,900	1,204,837	1,851,325	1,668,863	2,252,611	7,872,175
Lewisham	70,000	293,800	1,057,774	1,679,765	1,527,117	2,694,601	7,047,113
Merton	58,000	160,100	323,842	744,805	706,984	681,230	1,755,182
Newham	77,000	353,000	1,003,925	2,125,283	2,002,759	2,141,963	10,839,968
Redbridge	67,000	205,100	664,229	1,213,141	1,164,373	1,424,516	2,818,191
Richmond upon Thames	56,000	129,800	192,980	649,487	588,573	584,612	1,066,581
Southwark	57,000	323,800	1,210,691	1,846,372	1,663,763	1,817,293	8,890,728
Sutton	173,000	138,600	400,719	932,521	875,628	828,766	2,235,983
Tower Hamlets	49,000	329,600	1,183,969	1,794,065	1,645,855	1,700,402	8,171,927
Waltham Forest	73,000	255,200	966,228	1,543,351	1,357,640	1,460,095	5,758,726
Wandsworth	68,000	243,300	551,626	1,118,233	1,032,520	1,093,862	3,358,001
Westminster	55,000	172,000	592,607	1,106,747	1,047,053	803,398	4,025,831

LA	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Barking and Dagenham	4,739,322	6,853,034	7,026,368	7,851,783	8,501,064	9,663,262
Barnet	2,699,355	4,727,121	5,432,510	6,604,850	7,669,198	9,598,739
Bexley	2,446,708	3,537,109	3,841,811	4,223,530	4,567,932	5,750,602
Brent	4,774,918	6,273,555	6,360,938	7,845,665	8,758,433	10,482,782
Bromley	2,533,178	4,376,000	4,978,027	5,472,235	6,052,911	7,786,538
Camden	5,524,350	6,903,217	6,593,710	7,826,739	8,197,418	9,080,889
City of London	222,193	313,645	312,266	346,232	390,940	442,848
Croydon	3,219,008	5,736,067	6,496,982	7,552,540	8,689,036	10,917,788
Ealing	4,421,036	6,463,225	6,848,968	8,306,902	9,360,067	11,410,654
Enfield	3,480,583	5,670,343	5,856,014	7,071,775	8,193,127	10,509,101
Greenwich	6,765,630	8,386,826	10,143,227	10,110,100	10,636,671	12,283,793
Hackney	9,023,808	11,424,597	10,844,689	12,961,630	13,596,477	15,376,070
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,920,967	4,439,018	4,361,429	5,496,250	5,985,868	7,039,866
Haringey	7,052,957	8,706,957	13,117,248	9,996,609	10,441,542	12,022,926
Harrow	1,261,427	2,302,098	2,782,696	3,259,217	3,896,420	5,142,926
Havering	2,250,576	3,213,761	3,582,724	3,938,122	4,116,838	5,310,398
Hillingdon	2,496,147	3,756,797	4,291,860	5,043,935	5,643,260	7,199,697
Hounslow	2,403,421	4,348,780	4,603,995	5,765,608	6,726,935	8,298,283
Islington	7,142,179	8,759,311	8,360,641	9,192,701	9,524,865	10,581,209
Kensington and Chelsea	2,716,202	3,397,403	3,420,420	3,759,615	3,928,669	4,465,629
Kingston upon Thames	965,844	1,648,282	1,966,468	2,161,066	2,472,041	3,199,201
Lambeth	7,872,175	10,460,473	10,354,753	12,559,734	13,451,900	15,388,906
Lewisham	7,047,113	9,270,655	9,434,229	11,025,576	11,879,818	13,733,257
Merton	1,755,182	2,957,643	3,329,766	3,826,144	4,325,617	5,338,762
Newham	10,839,968	13,991,798	14,702,026	15,271,475	15,819,938	17,363,236
Redbridge	2,818,191	4,111,740	4,439,572	4,881,044	5,516,824	6,948,961
Richmond upon Thames	1,066,581	2,045,522	2,473,943	[illegible],718,529	3,118,172	4,066,527
Southwark	8,890,728	11,195,722	10,947,714	12,719,821	13,331,237	14,734,429
Sutton	2,235,983	3,039,670	3,302,278	3,793,632	4,259,394	5,481,054
Tower Hamlets	8,171,927	10,550,168	10,981,011	13,298,883	13,831,352	15,281,799
Waltham Forest	5,758,726	7,596,672	7,905,485*	9,122,443	9,885,865	11,429,211
Wandsworth	3,358,001	5,142,754	5,434,000	6,854,732	7,930,596	9,693,985
Westminster	4,025,831	4,751,317	4,660,494	5,924,537	6,405,481	7,331,630

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
				Capital			
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	118,720	446,154	1,522,376
Barnet	0	0	0	0	148,791	24,516	158,583
Bexley	0	0	0	0	92,806	12,540	593,961
Brent	0	0	0	0	135,773	317,817	1,213,829
Bromley	0	0	0	0	125,087	64,577	336,816
Camden	0	0	0	0	91,202	25,761	1,016,319
City of London	0	0	0	0	155,459	19,411	1,110

				Capital			
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Croydon	0	0	0	0	157,558	23,370	654,862
Ealing	0	0	0	0	146,763	31,743	1,171,447
Enfield	0	0	0	0	135,650	234,606	1,389,448
Greenwich	0	0	0	0	126,551	277,714	1,833,092
Hackney	0	0	0	0	446,927	253,079	2,860,368
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	0	82,373	21,387	527,391
Haringey	0	0	0	0	136,178	420,788	1,790,407
Harrow	0	0	0	0	95,021	30,951	31,080
Havering	0	0	0	0	85,718	352,491	361,067
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	135,115	14,820	159,360
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	105,561	19,338	532,428
Islington	0	0	0	0	410,787	35,178	1,616,789
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	71,558	148,428	605,999
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	113,375	22,443	33,911
Lambeth	0	0	0	0	162,471	182,802	2,288,227
Lewisham	0	0	0	0	122,556	424,904	1,862,379
Merton	0	0	0	0	86,832	183,996	148,939
Newham	0	0	0	0	279,316	351,088	3,231,715
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	105,119	53,163	640,568
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	83,267	9,975	30,248
Southwark	0	0	0	0	158,010	674,573	2,244,576
Sutton	0	0	0	0	76,304	69,690	326,966
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0	443,556	299,054	2,289,536
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	125,282	358,274	1,989,588
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	125,910	255,404	253,525
Westminster	0	0	0	0	84,433	409,383	605,262

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Sure Start local programmes capital
Barking and Dagenham	1,522,376	2,817,155	2,566,045	1,245,431	1,512,281	1,321,120	3,931,000
Barnet	158,583	2,337,313	4,278,485	2,342,190	3,199,744	2,520,657	800,000
Bexley	593,961	1,470,442	2,291,376	1,345,967	1,823,419	1,449,135	869,859
Brent	1,213,829	1,380,009	2,801,837	2,139,111	2,905,847	2,299,540	3,977,413
Bromley	336,816	2,174,633	3,425,874	1,962,801	2,617,506	2,104,092	1,075,000
Camden	1,016,319	3,258,862	3,136,594	1,788,446	1,276,658	1,281,329	5,335,699
City of London	1,110	54,895	111,453	38,570	38,570	43,192	0
Croydon	654,862	3,274,282	5,524,767	2,269,688	2,881,347	2,416,116	1,069,687
Ealing	1,171,447	2,413,004	4,038,282	2,673,888	2,959,361	2,390,322	2,150,000
Enfield	1,389,448	2,920,211	3,544,969	2,243,242	3,003,236	2,406,463	623,183
Greenwich	1,833,092	4,254,754	2,889,676	1,766,472	2,169,123	1,873,602	3,753,745
Hackney	2,860,368	6,882,065	3,950,382	3,018,854	1,787,368	1,794,478	7,141,093
Hammersmith and Fulham	527,391	1,856,725	2,391,915	1,189,614	1,487,436	1,263,054	2,314,153
Haringey	1,790,407	4,216,774	3,471,624	1,699,691	2,079,013	1,800,582	5,495,244
Harrow	31,080	887,057	1,800,994	1,562,049	2,209,019	1,689,184	0
Havering	361,067	1,942,697	2,001,165	1,289,607	1,706,483	1,381,722	358,511
Hillingdon	159,360	1,796,002	3,646,429	1,776,579	2,444,030	1,915,610	1,178,583
Hounslow	532,428	2,242,207	3,658,837	1,653,639	2,195,193	1,772,577	1,074,454
Islington	1,616,789	3,549,535	2,641,835	1,057,496	1,092,839	1,097,225	5,897,520
Kensington and Chelsea	605,999	1,101,771	1,452,564	836,919	860,026	862,893	1,776,721
Kingston upon Thames	33,911	642,478	1,304,424	969,895	1,356,565	1,048,690	0
Lambeth	2,288,227	6,541,553	4,041,841	2,040,902	2,377,295	2,146,933	4,151,380
Lewisham	1,862,379	4,730,022	3,422,966	1,904,223	2,297,103	2,014,530	3,196,646
Merton	148,939	1,083,598	2,200,031	1,317,944	1,786,500	1,417,809	1,075,000
Newham	3,231,715	5,678,369	4,462,481	2,312,424	1,918,593	1,926,524	5,358,193
Redbridge	640,568	1,590,310	2,614,848	1,904,044	2,634,157	2,052,906	1,189,290
Richmond upon Thames	30,248	816,576	1,657,896	1,342,690	1,841,278	1,444,443	0
Southwark	2,244,576	2,765,075	3,882,273	1,956,990	2,238,317	2,052,149	6,762,437
Sutton	326,966	1,826,056	2,057,160	1,080,277	1,440,021	1,160,889	111,000
Tower Hamlets	2,289,536	8,934,933	3,254,853	1,923,011	2,293,826	2,029,348	3,315,761
Waltham Forest	1,989,588	2,420,674	3,233,961	1,757,991	2,236,673	1,874,317	3,660,203

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Sure Start local programmes capital
Wandsworth	253,525	1,895,690	3,848,824	2,342,805	3,190,233	2,516,992	2,190,676
Westminster	605,262	1,728,773	2,435,902	1,315,867	1,645,442	1,393,752	2,527,499

Notes:

1. The grant allocations exclude funding for the free entitlement for early learning for three and four-year-olds.

2. The allocations include the funding for integrated services such as children's centres and Sure Start Local Programmes. They also include funding for child care sufficiency and access and improving the outcomes and quality in early years settings. 3. Sure Start Local Programmes were awarded a lifetime capital allocation rather than specific amounts each year. This lifetime allocation has been shown separately.

4. Grant allocations for 2004-06 were for a two-year period. In the table, the totals have been divided equally between the two years.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether parents may use the current free entitlement to 12.5 hours of nursery care at different providers. [214813]

Beverley Hughes: The entitlement to 12 and a half hours per week of free early learning can be accessed across a diverse range of high quality providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors. Parents may use their early learning entitlement at more than one provider.

Class Sizes: Romsey

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in Romsey constituency in (i) January 1997, (ii) January 1998 and (iii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [214964]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Romsey constituency and England, January 1997, 1998 and 2007 the latest information available.

Pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Years: January 1997, 1998 and 2007. Coverage: Romsey constituency and England

	Primary	Secondary
1997		
Romsey	23.2	16.4
England	23.4	16.7
1998.		
Romsey	23.4	16.5
England	23.7	16.9
2007		
Romsey	21.7	17.2
England	21.8	16.5

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:

School Census

Communication Skills: Young Offenders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the oral communication abilities of people in young offender institutions; and if he will make a statement. [213806]

Beverley Hughes: While the Government have made no formal assessment of oral communication abilities, we are aware of research which estimates that 60 per cent. of young offenders have speech, language and communication needs. Young people admitted to the secure estate are assessed for their health and well-being and educational needs. A new reception health screen for young people has been developed by the Youth Justice Board. The new health screen contains a section looking specifically at disability and impairment, which contains a question designed to identify speech difficulties in young people entering custody. Young people in young offender institutions with special educational needs are supported by special educational needs co-ordinators and by learning support assistants.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213396]

Kevin Brennan: The Department restates the asset values of its building estate every year in its annual accounts.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, which former special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused permission by his Department or its predecessor to take up an outside appointment on leaving their post since May 2005. [210918]

Kevin Brennan: Personal information about the applications submitted by special advisers, and other Crown servants, is made public only in accordance with the principles and practices followed in the operation of the Business Appointment Rules. This information, which includes details of the appointments of the most senior staff and statistical data about cases at the more junior levels, is published on the website of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments:

www.acoba.gov.uk

and in its reports.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214544]

Kevin Brennan: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans, and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [213677]

Kevin Brennan: Spend by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor Department, Department for Education and Skills, on new furnishings, art and new vehicles in the last three years is shown in the following table.

Central Government Departments already actively seek to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. From April 2009, departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EUs Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative. The Government also fund a Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) which provides free advice and guidance to help all public sector buyers and their suppliers meet the policy.

The breakdown in respect of new furnishings, art and new vehicles is as follows:

	Total new furnishings (desk, chairs, carpets, blinds and curtains) (£)	*Art (£)*	*New vehicles*
2005-06	564,910	3,200	0
2006-07	176,093	0	0
2007-08	1,657,739	0	0

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213158]

Kevin Brennan: My Department was formed as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 from its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills.

All individuals recruited to either Department over the last ten years are subject to a basic criminal records check. As part of the application process individuals complete a self-declaration of their criminal records.

In line with the HMG baseline personnel security standard the Department undertakes a full independent check of unspent criminal records for all successful applicants, who are not in a regulated post.

The numbers, by year, of applicants who have been checked is not held centrally and is only available at disproportionate cost.

In addition to the baseline security checks, the Department has completed Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for employees, since 2002 when they became a requirement. All individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, have been subject to, or are currently undergoing, targeted enhanced CRB check, as a matter of course.

Since 2002, the Department has completed approximately 650 enhanced CRB checks for its employees. These checks were undertaken for existing staff who moved around within the Department to posts which required CRB checks and also for new appointees to the Department who were recruited into posts which required CRB checks.

Education: Assessments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects a decision on the national implementation of the Making Good Progress pilots to be made. [214621]

Jim Knight: The Government have already committed to the delivery of national one to one tuition for 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 pupils in mathematics by 2010-11, with some funding available in the financial year 2009-10.

School progression targets to improve the proportions of pupils making two levels of progress within a key stage were introduced in pilot schools in this academic year (2008/09), with national progression targets coming on stream for all schools from the academic year 2009/10.

All other elements of the pilot, including the progression premium and single level tests, will be subject to evaluation of the pilot, and in the case of single-level tests, the endorsement of this approach from the Regulator, before any decision is made about whether to implement them on a national basis.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of the Making Good Progress pilots in improving levels of children's literacy; and if he will make a statement. [214635

Jim Knight: The Making Good Progress pilot is a two year pilot in over 450 schools running from September 2007 until July 2009. It is being independently evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers and a final evaluation report is due in autumn 2009.

As the pilot is still in its first year, it is still too early to make this kind of assessment. An interim evaluation report on the first year of the pilot will be published in the autumn term.

Further Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16 to 18 year olds were in full-time education or training in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [215814]

Jim Knight: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June (see following link).

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

The Department publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are only available for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local participation estimates cover those in full-time education, part-time education, and Work Based Learning, but do not identify young people in employer funded training and other education and training apart from those on a part-time education course. The most recent local estimates of education and Work Based Learning for local authorities relate to the end of 2006.

Performing Arts: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on increasing funding for performing arts in secondary schools in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London. [212623]

Jim Knight: No such representations have been made. Allocations for specific subjects are not generally made by Government when calculating schools funding and schools prioritise their spending according to the needs of their pupils. Last November we announced unprecedented funding of £332 million specifically for music to 2011—including £82 million per year direct to local authorities ring-fenced for music education. We are also making £25 million available over three years for Find Your Talent pilots, which will explore how to provide opportunities for all children and young people to take part in cultural activities.

Pupils: Health

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of school age have a long-term medical condition in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [214564]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department currently collects information on the type of need for children with special educational needs (SEN) at School Action Plus and with a statement of SEN—see table 9 of the SEN statistical first release published on 25 June 2008 and available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

However, a pupil whose medical condition does not give rise to a SEN will not be included in these figures.

The Department is looking at how to collect information on pupils' disabilities in future but needs to balance the need for additional data with the burden that its collection places on schools. In the meantime, the Department has commissioned research on 'Disabled Children: Numbers, Characteristics and Local Service Provision'—available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15219&type=5&resultspage=1

which includes a discussion of the available sources of data on disabled children who may not have SEN.

Pupils: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of policies in place in schools to tackle bullying. [215010]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has recently gone out to tender for research into the effectiveness of our anti-bullying strategies. This research will provide the necessary quantative and qualitative data needed to draw robust conclusions about the efficacy of different anti-bullying strategies. The successful bidder will report their findings to the Department in summer 2009 and summer 2010.

We commissioned an evaluation report from Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) into the work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, one of the Department's key delivery partners in the field. PWC published their report in February 2007: it concluded that the ABA

"plays a crucial role in accessing and brokering the broad range of available deep expertise and in consensus building".

and that their programme of work is

"broadly aligned to DfES stated policies and priorities".

It recommended that the Department tendered for distinct elements of anti-bullying work to allow a greater range of providers into the system, maximise outputs and achieve greater value for money, and we have since done so.

We have also carried out evaluations into individual initiatives for preventing and tackling bullying in schools including the Peer Mentoring and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programmes: these showed positive evidence of their impact in tackling bullying. Schools using peer mentoring schemes reported substantial falls in aggressive behaviour with up to 85 per cent. of disputes solved in this way resulting in long-lasting agreements (Source: "Don't Suffer in Silence", 2002).

More generally the Department has built monitoring and evaluation arrangements into all of our contracts with the external bodies who are responsible for taking forward our anti-bullying programmes on the ground. We will monitor the situation closely to ensure each of these organisations achieve key outcomes and provide value for money.

Pupils: Leave

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines his Department issues to schools with regard to allowing study leave to pupils; and if he will make a statement. [215070]

Jim Knight: The Department issued revised guidance in April 2008 advising head teachers, senior managers and teachers on the use of study leave. The guidance entitled "Beyond Study Leave: A guide for school leaders and teachers" was produced in collaboration with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) and can be accessed from the TeacherNet website at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

School Leaving: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of those taking up education, training and employment immediately upon leaving school in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 1997. [215078]

Jim Knight: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June (see following link).

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

The Department also publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are only available for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local participation estimates cover those in full-time education, part-time education, and Work Based Learning. There is no information available on a comparable basis at the local authority level on the number of young people in employment.

The most recent local estimates of education and Work Based Learning for local authorities relate to the end of 2006. The following tables show the rates and numbers of 16-year-olds participating in education and Work Based Learning in Bexley, Greater London and nationally in each year since 1997.

Participation in Education and Work Based Learning by 16-year-olds 1997 to 2006

Percentage

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001(a)*	*2001(b)*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England											
Full time education	70	70	72	71	71	71	72	72	74	76	78
Work Based Learning	10	9	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Part time Education	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Total Education and WBL(c)	85	84	85	84	83	84	84	85	86	87	83
Greater London											
Full time education	75	75	76	74	73	75	78	79	81	84	87
Work Based Learning	4	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Part time Education	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Total Education and WBL(c)	83	84	84	82	81	82	86	86	88	90	93
Bexley											
Full time education	71	72	72	71	68	69	70	76	76	79	80
Work Based Learning	9	8	7	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	5
Part time Education	6	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	3	3	3
Total Education and WBL(c)	83	83	82	80	78	79	79	85	85	88	88

Participation in Education and Work Based Learning by 16-year-olds 1997 to 2006

Thousand

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001(a)*	*2001(b)*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England											
Full time education	424.1	416.7	428.8	429.6	446.9	449.0	453.7	465.8	488.4	496.3	519.1
Work Based Learning	58.4	53.5	50.7	50.6	46.0	46.0	43.7	46.0	47.1	41.9	37.8
Part time Education	43.7	36.7	30.5	29.4	31.3	31.3	30.1	27.9	29.5	26.5	23.8
Total Education and WBL(c)	512.4	497.8	506.8	506.5	521.4	523.5	527.4	539.7	565.0	564.8	580.7
Greater London											
Full time education	60.2	59.7	60.5	61.1	63.6	64.8	65.9	68.6	71.7	72.7	75.3
Work Based Learning	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.3
Part time Education	3.9	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	2.8
Total Education and WBL(c)	66.8	66.4	67.2	67.6	70.1	71.4	72.2	74.9	78.1	78.3	80.4

Participation in Education and Work Based Learning by 16-year-olds 1997 to 2006

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001(a)	2001(b)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bexley											
Full time education	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Work Based Learning	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Part time Education	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Education and WBL(c)	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8

(a) and (b)—For 2001 onwards, information for pupils in maintained schools, city technology colleges and academies is included by the pupil's residence, rather than the address of the school. The tables show the 2001 figures on both the (a) old "school" basis and (b) new "residence" basis.
(c) Total of all full-time and part-time education and WBL, less WBL provision in education institutions.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with Essex County Council on secondary school provision in Colchester constituency in the last month; and if he will make a statement. [214757]

Jim Knight: My officials have not had any further discussions with Essex county council, on secondary school provision in Colchester since 22 May. In my response to the hon. Member's letter to the Secretary of State on 4 June, regarding Alderman Blaxill School and Thomas Lord Audley College, I stated that the local authority was looking at the practicalities of a federation of these two schools along with Stanway School, with the possibility of an overarching trust. As I understand it, there has been no change in this position since then. Ultimately, decisions on school organisation are for local authorities.

Secondary Education: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in the London borough of Islington completed year 11 secondary education with *(a)* five or more A*-C GCSEs, *(b)* fewer than five GCSEs and *(c)* no secondary education qualifications in each of the last five years. [214615]

Jim Knight: The information required is given as follows:

GCSE and equivalent attainment in Islington, London and England in 2003-07

	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	Percentage gaining 5+ GCSEs A*-C
2003			
Islington	1,317	509	38.6
London	70,809	35,889	50.7
England	572,040	292,438	51.1
2004			
Islington	1,411	649	46.0
London	73,397	38,864	53.0
England	590,096	307,046	52.0
2005			
Islington	1,369	604	44.1
London	72,921	40,296	55.3
England	583,265	319,481	54.8
2006			
Islington	1,468	680	46.3
London	74,201	43,036	58.0
England	593,061	339,289	57.2
2007			
Islington	1,479	722	48.8
London	74,395	45,024	60.5
England	599,403	358,477	59.8

	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number gaining fewer than 5 GCSEs	Percentage gaining fewer than 5 GCSEs
2003			
Islington	1,317	209	15.9
London	70,809	7,347	10.4
England	572,040	60,554	10.6
2004			
Islington	1,411	214	15.2
London	73,397	7,366	10.0
England	590,096	61,060	10.3
2005			
Islington	1,369	200	14.6
London	72,921	6,930	9.5
England	583,265	58,966	10.1
2006			
Islington	1,468	209	14.2
London	74,201	6,820	9.2
England	593,061	57,335	9.7
2007			
Islington	1,479	204	13.8
London	74,395	6,285	8.4
England	599,403	53,343	8.9

	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number achieving no GCSEs	Percentage achieving no GCSEs
2003			
Islington	1,317	67	5.1
London	70,809	3,281	4.6
England	572,040	28,718	5.0

	Number of 15-Year-old pupils	Number achieving no GCSEs	Percentage achieving no GCSEs
2004			
Islington	1,411	62	4.4
London	73,397	2,674	3.6
England	590,046	22,474	3.8
2005			
Islington	1,369	60	4.4
London	72,921	2,335	3.2
England	583,265	20,180	3.5
2006			
Islington	1,468	71	4.8
London	74,201	2,183	2.9
England	593,063	17,799	3.0
2007			
Islington	1,479	62	4.2
London	74,395	1,835	2.5
England	599,403	15,419	2.6

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all maintained schools (including academies and CTCs).
2. Figures include equivalencies.

Student Loans Company: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are employed by the Student Loans Company in *(a)* Colwyn Bay and *(b)* Rhyl. [214601]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Student Loans Company has 29 staff at its office in Colwyn Bay. It does not have an office in Rhyl.

Truancy: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary education in Staffordshire was classed as persistent absentees in each of the last five years. [215806]

Kevin Brennan: The first year for which information is available on persistent absentees is 2005/06.

The available information is given in the table, and was published as part of the Statistical First Release: "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics, 2006/07" at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Rates of overall absence and persistent absentees 2005/06 and 2006/07: By local authority area and Government office region in England

	Percentage of persistent absentees[2]		
	2005/06	2006/07	Percentage point change
Staffordshire local authority area	5.3	5.0	-0.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Number of persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.
Persistent absentees are defined as missing more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions (includes authorised and unauthorised absence from school).
Source:
School Census

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213216]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Accounting Policies for the Department for 2007-08 have been merged from the pre-existing Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Trade and Industry Accounting Policies. The Department's Resource Account's are currently being audited by the National Audit Office.

The Department depreciates the aforementioned asset categories over the following periods:

	Years
(a) Vehicles	2 to 10
(b) Computer hardware	3 to 10
(c) Bespoke computer software	2 to 5
(d) Standard computer software	2 to 5
(e) Furniture	7 to 10
(f) Telecommunications equipment	3 to 10

This information has been taken from the Department's Accounting policy note that will form part of the Resource Accounts. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by HM Treasury.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212878]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213398]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Accounting Policies for the Department for 2007-08 have been merged from the pre-existing Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Trade and Industry Accounting Policies. The Department's Resource Accounts are currently being audited by the National Audit Office.

The Department restates the value its building estate in accordance with the requirements of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors every five years at existing use value. Where appropriate, indices issued by the Office for National Statistics have been applied in intervening years. This information has been taken from the Department's accounting policy note which will form part of the resource accounts.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215169]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department does not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what expert groups his Department has set up since it was established. [213265]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established in June 2007. Since that date it has set up The National Student Forum which was established in February 2008 and has met four times. The Forum is independently chaired by Maeve Sherlock and has 16 student members. The Forum will produce an annual report in the autumn, to which Ministers are committed to respond publicly.

Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211765]

Mr. Lammy: Since its creation in June 2007, DIUS has spent a total of £554,780 on office furniture. Further detail, and information in respect of all of the Department's agencies, could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212522]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I can however confirm that home working is available to all staff in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills as part of our flexible working policy.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212053]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes. Since this date the Department has spent an estimated £33,556.75 on branding and design for signposts, graphic and stationery. Branding work on the website is expected to come to in the region of £60,000 for the financial year 2007-08. We are not expecting any additional rebranding costs.

The Department has spent an estimated £1,777,776 on advertising, £115,130 on direct marketing and £612,770 on paper publications.

The Department is responsible for two agencies, National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the UK Intellectual Property Office. National Weights and Measures Laboratory has spent £41,237.30 on marketing in 2007-08 and has not spent anything on branding activity. UK Intellectual Property Office has spent £72,000 in 2007-08 on marketing and nothing on branding.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 393W, on departmental orders and regulations, if he will list the statutory instruments revoked by Ministers of his Department. [215146]

Mr. Lammy: The 34 revoked statutory instruments, referred to in my answer of 22 May 2008 (not 2 June as stated in the question), *Official Report*, column 393W, were as follows:

Copyright and Performances (Application to Other Countries) Order 2006 (SI 2006/316)

Copyright and Performances (Application to Other Countries) Order 2007 (SI 2007/273)

Copyright (Certification of Licensing Scheme for Educational Recording of Broadcasts) (Educational Recording Agency Limited) Order 2005 (SI 2005/222)

Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1972)

Education (Fees and Awards) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/2192)

Education (Fees and Awards) (Amendment No 2) (England) Regulations 2000 (2000/2945)

Education (QCA Levy) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/435)

Education (QCA Levy) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/1331)

Education (Student Fees and Support) (Switzerland) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/3280)

Education (Fees and Awards) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/483)

Education (Student Support) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/176)

Patents Act 2004 (Commencement No 1 and Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2004 (SI 2004/2177) (C.94)

Patents Act 2004 (Commencement No 2 and Consequential, etc and Transitional Provisions) Order 2004 (SI 2004/3205) (C.140)

Patents and Trade Marks (World Trade Organisation) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/1899)

Patents Rules 1978 (SI 1978/216)

Patents Rules 1995 (SI 1995/2093)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 1999 (SI 1999/1092)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 2001 (SI 2001/1412)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 2002 (SI 2002/529)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 2004 (SI 2004/2358)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 2005 (SI 2005/2496)

Patents (Amendment) Rules 2007 (SI 2007/677)

Patents (Amendment) (No 2) Rules 1999 (SI 1999/3197)

Patents (Convention Countries) Order 2006 (SI 2006/315)

Patents (Electronic Communications) (Amendment) Rules 2003 (SI 2003/513)

Patents (Fees) Rules 1998 (SI 1998/1778)

Patents (Fees) (Amendments) Rules 1999 (SI 1999/1093)

Patents (Supplementary Protection Certificates) Rules 1997 (SI 1997/64)

Patents (Supplementary Protection Certificate for Medicinal Products) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3091)

Patents (Supplementary Protection Certificate for Plant Protection Products) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/3120)

Patents, Trade Marks and Designs (Address for Service and Time Limits, etc) Rules 2006 (SI 2006/760)

Patents (Translations) Rules 2005 (SI 2005/687)

Student Fees (Amounts) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2382)

Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/482)

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212500]

Mr. Lammy: Figures are detailed in the following tables:

National

£

Grade	*Permanent hourly rate*	*Temporary hourly rate*
EAAO	7.52	6.99
EO	9.68	8.88
Grade 6	26.36	22.99
Grade 7	20.68	19.00
HEO	12.19	11.09
SEO	15.15	13.60

London

£

Grade	*Permanent hourly rate*	*Temporary hourly rate*
EAAO[1]	9.22	8.64
EO[1]	11.28	10.50
Grade 6	27.60	25.62
Grade 7	23.09	21.16
HEO	13.75	12.83
SEO	18.14	15.45

[1] Reflects grades where temporary employees are in post.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214552]

Mr. Lammy: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214626]

Mr. Lammy: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2007/08 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from Wirral West constituency entered *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge University in the last five years; what steps his Department has taken in (i) Wirral and (ii) England to encourage more people from lower socio-economic groups to apply to these and other leading universities; and if he will make a statement. [213018]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants to undergraduate courses at the university of Oxford and the university of Cambridge[1] from Wirral West parliamentary constituency, academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

Academic year	University of Oxford	University of Cambridge
2002/03	10	15
2003/04	5	5
2004/05	10	5
2005/06	10	5
2006/07	5	5

[1] The university of Cambridge has taken the opportunity of a new student record system to review the recording of student data. The head of planning and resource allocation at the university of Cambridge should be consulted about significant variances when comparing data for 2004/05 and 2005/06 or using 2005/06 data where there are particular sensitivities. These sensitivities include postgraduate research and postgraduate taught totals; 'other postgraduate' and 'other undergraduate' totals; clinical medical FTEs; data relating to new entrants; and sources of financial support for postgraduates.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

The Aimhigher programme helps to raise the aspirations of young people towards university. Aimhigher is a national programme which supports trips to universities, masterclasses, summer schools and similar activities. Greater Merseyside Aimhigher has strong links with the university of Liverpool and others that offer a high rate of return. For example, Magdelene college, Cambridge runs a roadshow in schools in Wirrall; university of Liverpool runs a summer school for year 10 pupils from across Wirrall; and Birkenhead sixth-form college runs activities with Fitzwilliam college, Cambridge. Greater Merseyside Aimhigher will be receiving nearly £13 million between 2008/09 and 2010/11.

The National Programme for Gifted and Talented Education helps to raise attainment, especially for those underachieving as a consequence of disadvantage. The programme is designed to raise students' attainment and aspirations, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, so that more are well-placed to compete for places at universities with the highest rates of return. Each region, including the North-West, has an Excellence Hub—an HE-based partnership providing outreach opportunities that support this objective.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the drop out rate was for each *(a)* higher education institution and *(b)* higher education course taught in a further education institution in the most recent year for which figures are available. [209454]

Bill Rammell: Student retention rates at higher education institutions in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

While there has been a slight increase in non-completion for the 2005/06 academic year, the proportion is lower than for most years for which data are available and is much lower than in the late 1990s.

This has been achieved and maintained during a period when the student population has increased and its diversity widened.

The available information on the proportions of UK-domiciled starters to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution, for each English HEI, along with their benchmarks, are shown in table 1.

The figures in table 1 include higher education provided under a franchise in a further education institution; however these figures are not identified separately. Information is not available for higher education students registered at further education institutions (i.e. directly funded).

Table 1: Proportion of full-time first degree starters at English higher education institutions, who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution—academic year 2005/06

	Projected	Percentage Benchmark
Anglia Ruskin University	21.7	20.0
Aston University	7.9	11.6
Bath Spa University	10.0	16.0
The University of Bath	4.4	6.8
University of Bedfordshire	20.6	18.4
Birkbeck College		
Birmingham City University	19.8	17.5
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	12.9	16.6
The University of Birmingham	4.9	7.7
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	6.6	12.2
The University of Bolton	38.0	22.6
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	10.1	15.3
Bournemouth University	13.1	15.5
The University of Bradford	16.9	18.1
The University of Brighton	13.0	14.9
The University of Bristol	4.2	5.1
Brunel University	11.6	15.8
Buckinghamshire New University	14.2	17.7
The University of Buckingham	0.0	22.8
The University of Cambridge	0.9	4.5
Canterbury Christ Church University	15.6	15.8
The University of Central Lancashire	22.5	18.3
Central School of Speech and Drama	3.9	12.8
University of Chester	15.2	15.3
The University of Chichester	7.8	15.9
The City University	14.7	15.9
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	5.8	15.0
Courtauld Institute of Art	6.8	5.6
Coventry University	20.0	18.4
The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone, Rochester	10.9	15.8
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	13.2	16.1
Dartington College of Arts	11.1	15.7
De Montfort University	14.4	15.5
University of Derby	23.5	21.7
University of Durham	2.5	6.1
The University of East Anglia	13.5	9.9
The University of East London	19.9	24.2
Edge Hill University	18.4	16.8
The University of Essex	12.1	13.3
The University of Exeter	8.3	7.9
University College Falmouth	11.9	15.3
University of Gloucestershire	10.1	16.3
Goldsmiths College	14.4	15.1
The University of Greenwich	20.8	20.3
Harper Adams University College	13.3	15.3

Table 1. Proportion of full-time first degree starters at English higher education institutions, who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution—academic year 2005/06

		Percentage
	Projected	Benchmark
University of Hertfordshire	15.7	17.9
The University of Huddersfield	15.5	17.2
The University of Hull	10.2	14.1
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	2.9	4.7
Institute of Education	—	—
The University of Keele	8.6	12.1
The University of Kent	11.1	14.9
King's College London	7.6	7.5
Kingston University	16.4	19.0
The University of Lancaster	6.7	8.5
Leeds College of Music	0.0	8.4
Leeds Metropolitan University	15.8	16.4
The University of Leeds	7.9	8.0
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	16.9	15.7
The University of Leicester	7.0	9.2
The University of Lincoln	14.1	16.0
Liverpool Hope University	25.6	18.1
Liverpool John Moores University	21.1	16.4
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	13.4	15.5
The University of Liverpool	8.1	9.7
University of the Arts, London	14.1	13.2
University of London (Institutes and activities)	3.3	7.1
London Metropolitan University	21.6	22.6
London South Bank University	27.3	22.3
London School of Economics and Political Science	3.4	5.3
Loughborough University	5.5	10.8
The Manchester Metropolitan University	20.1	18.6
The University of Manchester	8.4	8.1
Middlesex University	33.9	21.0
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	7.5	7.8
Newman College of Higher Education	19.9	17.1
The University of Northampton	17.1	17.4
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	17.8	15.2
Norwich School of Art and Design	5.9	14.4
The University of Nottingham	3.3	5.8
The Nottingham Trent University	11.5	13.8
Oxford Brookes University	13.1	14.0
The University of Oxford	2.4	3.7
University College Plymouth St. Mark and St John	19.2	17.6
The University of Plymouth	14.4	16.2
The University of Portsmouth	13.0	16.3
Queen Mary and Westfield College	11.5	11.6
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	8.4	17.6
The University of Reading	6.7	9.6
Roehampton University	21.2	16.4
Rose Bruford College	14.8	14.5
Royal Academy of Music	8.9	9.2
Royal Agricultural College	10.9	18.0
Royal College of Music	3.4	16.5
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	7.1	9.4
Royal Northern College of Music	12.0	16.6
The Royal Veterinary College	6.1	3.2
St. George's Hospital Medical School	6.4	7.6
St. Martin's College	14.8	14.5
St. Mary's University College, Twickenham	14.4	16.1
The University of Salford	22.0	18.3
The School of Oriental and African Studies	17.5	12.8
The School of Pharmacy	3.4	8.2
Sheffield Hallam University	14.5	15.8
The University of Sheffield	7.0	7.2
Southampton Solent University	21.2	20.4
The University of Southampton	5.3	9.3
Staffordshire University	21.2	18.3
The University of Sunderland	19.9	16.6
The University of Surrey	9.5	12.7
The University of Sussex	9.9	11.2
The University of Teesside	15.7	19.9
Thames Valley University	28.9	22.4
Trinity Laban	19.7	17.6
University College London	8.0	7.3
The University of Warwick	4.0	5.6
University of the West of England, Bristol	19.5	16.0
The University of Westminster	19.6	19.8
The University of Winchester	11.9	13.7
The University of Wolverhampton	20.9	18.9
The University of Worcester	15.5	16.2
Writtle College	17.9	17.3
York St. John University	10.7	14.1
The University of York	4.1	6.4

Notes:

1. The projected outcomes for a cohort are based on the assumption that their patterns of progression will follow those of students currently in the system. A student is assumed to have left with no award if they have been inactive for two years.

2. For each institution, the performance indicator is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities. The benchmarks are not targets.

Source:

Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Land Surveyors

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of qualified land surveyors in England; [214450]

(2) if he will publish a strategy to address national shortages of qualified land surveyors. [214487]

Mr. Lammy: My Department does not collect or hold data on this subject. Part of the work of ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry, is to assess the labour market needs of the construction sector and, through its sector skills agreement, identify ways in which skills needs and shortages can be met. I have therefore asked its chief executive to write directly to the hon. Gentleman about this issue.

Languages: Higher Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what courses in which 10 foreign languages were studied by the most students in universities in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many studied each. [215827]

Bill Rammell: In 2006/07 there were 46,100 enrolments on language courses at English HE institutions. The table shows enrolments in the most popular languages at all levels of HE. However, there are a further 9,150 enrolments classified as "other European languages" and 1,810 classified under "other non-European languages".

	2006/07
French	10,255
Spanish	7,700
German	4,510
Italian	2,900
Russian and Eastern European Studies	1,910
Modern Middle Eastern Studies	1,765
Japanese	1,485
Chinese	1,470
Portuguese	530
Scandinavian Studies	455

Source:
HESA

Overseas Students: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from Israel have enrolled at universities in the UK in each year since 1997; and which subjects they have studied. [216350]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the tables. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002/03 and so figures from 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

Israel domiciled entrants[1] by subject of study, UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 1997/98 to 2001/02

	Academic year				
Subject of study	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*
Medicine and Dentistry	0	5	10	10	5
Subjects Allied to Medicine	15	20	20	15	10
Biological Sciences	25	20	20	20	15
Physical Sciences	5	5	5	5	0
Computer Science	25	35	25	35	25
Engineering and Technology	75	40	20	25	30
Architecture, Building and Planning	85	55	40	50	35
Social, Economic and Political Studies	30	45	35	40	40
Law	135	170	55	50	40
Business and Administrative Studies	90	90	70	50	60
Librarianship and Information Science	10	15	10	10	10
Languages	40	55	30	40	30
Humanities	15	20	15	10	15
Creative Arts and Design	45	40	35	55	60
Education	185	215	320	355	220
Combined/Invalid Code Supplied	35	55	20	15	15
Total	815	890	735	795	615

Israel domiciled entrants[1] by subject of study, UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

	Academic year				
Subject of study	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Medicine and Dentistry	10	5	5	5	5
Subjects Allied to Medicine	15	15	15	20	15
Biological Sciences	25	30	20	10	20
Physical Sciences	5	10	10	5	5
Mathematical Sciences	0	5	5	5	0
Computer Science	30	15	10	25	15
Engineering and Technology	40	35	25	15	20
Architecture, Building and Planning	20	20	5	5	5
Social Studies	30	35	30	40	55
Law	50	25	20	25	25
Business and Administrative Studies	60	70	35	35	40
Mass Communications and Documentation	20	15	10	15	10
Languages	20	20	15	15	20
Historical and Philosophical Studies	20	15	20	10	15
Creative Arts and Design	50	60	55	30	40
Education	80	50	40	25	25
Combined	5	5	5	5	5
Total	480	430	325	285	320

[1] Figures cover full-time and part-time entrants to all levels of study. However, figures exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study.
[2] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of subject data across the time series.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

Skilled Workers: Recreation Spaces

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the skills base of grounds professionals; [209785]

(2) what assessment he has made of the future skills base of grounds professionals. [209786]

Bill Rammell: An assessment of the current and future skills base of grounds professionals has been undertaken by the Sector Skills Council Lantra (SSC for environmental and land-based industries), as part of their work to produce a Sector Skills Agreement for their sector as a whole. The chief executive of Lantra has written to the hon. Member about this matter and a copy of his response has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Peter Martin, dated 2 July 2008:

I have been asked by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to write to provide you with further information regarding the recruitment, training and development of people involved in the maintenance and management of sports grounds. Lantra is the Sector Skills Council with responsibility for determining of the skills needs of all those people working in the land-based and environmental sector - which of course includes these occupations.

Based on the most recent research that Lantra has undertaken, we estimate that over 85,000 people are involved in the management and maintenance of sports turf and green space facilities within the UK. The majority are employed as grounds staff, gardeners and greenkeepers in both the private and public sectors. Especially within local authorities, there are instances though where these people will have an extended skills base and be involved in other aspects of park and green space management. The above statistics do not include those mainly or wholly involved in the management and maintenance of botanic and historic gardens.

It is estimated that today there are around 122,500 acres in England put over to various types of sports use. The majority of sports grounds are under local authority control; for instance, 80% of football pitches, - some 40,000 in England - are maintained by local authorities.

A large percentage of groundsmen and golf greenkeepers are trained to a minimum of a Level 2 qualification in the main N/SVQ in Sports Turf Maintenance or equivalent within the suite of qualifications for amenity horticulture. The percentage of qualified staff is highest with golf greenkeeping due to the financial support provided for training by the sport. Regretfully, lower levels of qualified staff are found in other major sports such as tennis, rugby, cricket, football, horseracing and hockey.

There are a number of potential reasons for this lower investment:

the lack of priority by some sports governing bodies to ensure training of grounds staff. Too frequently, there are no set minimum standards for individuals maintaining facilities

the lack of money in clubs (especially at amateur level) to ensure high levels of grounds maintenance

the dependence on volunteers in many clubs to maintain facilities

the deleterious impact on training resulting from the previous policy within local authorities of Compulsory Competitive Tendering, and the challenge to restore a training culture within local authority parks, gardens and amenity horticulture departments

limited access to funded training provision for those entering the profession as a second career

the challenge also of aligning the funding criteria of Train to Gain with the needs of small amenity horticulture businesses in the private sector thus restricting ongoing skills development.

Sports turf and green space facilities do, however, align with many of the government's agendas such as for health, reduction in obesity, participation in sport, active leisure and community involvement. Lantra therefore actively promotes the need for trained staff to maintain safe and sustainable surfaces as a high priority.

In doing this, Lantra works closely with the employers and trade associations involved in the area of sports turf and green space employment, notably the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA). Both Institutes are particularly active in promoting higher investment in skills development as well as raising the profile of the sector as a whole. It is hoped that the 2012 Olympics and the theme of 'Greening the Games' will still further raise awareness of the sector. The Olympics sports legacy can only be sustained as long as there are sufficient people to maintain the grounds and ensure the safety of participants.

Lantra is presently carrying out the following work to support skills development of grounds maintenance staff:

a review and updating of the relevant apprenticeships is now underway

green space management has been incorporated into the new 14-19 Diploma in environmental and land-based studies which is due to be launched in September 2009. Over 3,500 learner places have been created

the development of 'bite-sized' learning within the new Qualification Credit Framework (QCF) should in future facilitate workforce development against industry determined standards

with the Institutes and others, Lantra is promoting careers in this industry and particularly seeking to interest entrants from those parts of the community who have previously not been attracted to the industry.

I trust that this provides the information that you were seeking.

Student Wastage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in each socio-economic group have left university without completing their course in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* institution. [214027]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes non-continuation indicators, which show the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year. It is possible to break these down by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), age, gender and institution. However, it is not possible to provide breakdowns which combine NS-SEC with any of the other variables.

Although published non-continuation figures for 2005/06 are currently available, breakdowns by gender and NS-SEC are only currently available up to the 2004/05 academic year. Figures for years earlier than 2002/03 are not available. Information on the actual number not continuing in HE has not been published.

The proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in HE after their first year by NS-SEC is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year by NS-SEC. UK higher education institutions. Academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Groups 1-3	6.3	6.0	5.6
Groups 4-7	8.1	8.2	7.6
Unknown	10.6	12.5	11.8

[1] Young refers to entrants who are under 21 years of age.

Notes:

1. Non-continuation rates provide the percentage of students who enter a higher education institution in one academic year, who are no longer in a HEI in the following academic year and have not qualified.

2. Figures for years earlier than 2002/03 are not available.

Source:

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The proportion of young and mature entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in HE after their first year by gender is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young and mature[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year by gender. UK higher education institutions. Academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

	2002/03		*2003/04*		*2004/05*	
	Young	*Mature*	*Young*	*Mature*	*Young*	*Mature*
Female	6.8	13.1	6.7	13.3	6.5	12.5
Male	8.9	18.1	8.8	18.4	8.0	16.9

[1] Young refers to entrants who are under 21 years of age, mature to entrants aged 21 years and over.

Notes:

1. Non-continuation rates provide the percentage of students who enter a higher education institution in one academic year, who are no longer in a HEI in the following academic year and have not qualified.

2. Figures for years earlier than 2002/03 are not currently available.

Source:

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The proportion of young and mature entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in HE after their first year by institution is shown in table 3 which will be placed in the Library.

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK rank 5th in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

Students: Debts

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt per capita of students leaving university in each year since 1997. [205711]

Bill Rammell: The 2004/05 Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) estimated the average personal debt per student—student loan and commercial borrowing less savings—to be £7,918 at graduation for English full-time undergraduates. A consistent time series of this estimate is not available.

Estimates for samples with differing characteristics are available from earlier surveys. These showed the average personal debt on graduation was: £3,462 in 1998/99 for UK full-time undergraduates; and £8,666 in 2002/03 for English and Welsh full-time undergraduates aged under 25.

Student loans are very different from commercial loans. Repayment of income-contingent loans is linked to income after leaving university and borrowers are not required to repay if their income is below £15,000 per year. Interest is linked to the rate of inflation, so in real terms borrowers repay no more than they borrowed. Graduates who take out their first student loan in or after 2008/09, and enter into repayment in or after April 2012, will also be able to take a repayment holiday of up to five years.

From the 2008/09 academic year, increased income thresholds for the maintenance grant, will help a wider range of students and their families. I expect that one third of students will be eligible for a full grant of £2,835 in 2008/09, and a further third will be eligible for a partial grant.

Students: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the annual cost of extending the entitlement to study for a first level 3 qualification to the whole population. [214972]

Mr. Lammy: The Government provide significant support for learning at Level 3 for individuals of all ages. We are channelling substantial sums for skills through FE colleges and providers, as well as through Train to Gain, where employers will control the spending of over £1 billion on skills training by 2010-11.

A key focus for Level 3 is on helping young adults to finish their education and to be able to take up opportunities in higher education or establish successful careers. In "Work Skills (Cm 7415)", published on 12 June, the Secretary of State announced the extension of the current entitlement for 19 to 25-year-olds studying a Level 3 in a college, to include those being trained at work. We expect this will benefit around 100,000 19 to 25-year-olds over the next three years. This will ensure that those young people who choose not to go to university are guaranteed support to continue their education and training.

The Secretary of State also announced a pilot, as part of the Skills Account trials, to fund and support training for older adults, up to Level 3, who want to return to, or move on in work. It will be based in two regions—the South East and East Midlands, backed by £15 million over the next three years, and expected to benefit around 20,000 adults.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department since its establishment; and, at what cost. [213740]

Mr. Lammy: Details of exactly how much timber and timber products were procured, and precise amounts of expenditure thereon could only be isolated from wider expenditure on office fixture, furniture and other items at disproportionate cost. However, I can confirm that all timber, including that in all of the timber based products procured for DIUS, originated from legal and sustainable sources.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what expert groups the Cabinet Office has set up in each year since 1999. [213274]

Mr. Watson: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

and copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months; [215215]

(2) how much was spent by the Prime Minister's Office on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215218]

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies of PR Week are purchased for the Prime Minister's Office each week; and at what cost. [211642]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215452]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1718W.

Tony Blair

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library the minutes of each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments since August 2007 at which matters relating to appointments of the right hon. Tony Blair were discussed. [215150]

Edward Miliband: This is a matter for the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. I have asked the Acting Chairman of the Committee, Sir John Blelloch, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Czech Republic: Lisbon Treaty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Czech Government on its policy on the Lisbon Treaty. [214228]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement to the House on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-26 on the outcome of discussions on the Lisbon treaty among all Heads of State and Government at the June European Council.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212525]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers the right to request flexible working to all staff as a way to improve work/life balance, where operational and business constraints permit. Records of the number of staff working at home are not held centrally, as flexible working is arranged on a section by section basis with line management.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on departmental information officers, what the pay band of the two press or communications officers appointed is; and whether they work *(a)* directly or *(b)* specifically for (i) the Foreign Secretary and (ii) another Minister in his Department. [214606]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The two press or communications officers do not work directly or specifically for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. One officer is employed in the senior management structure (senior civil service) and the other is employed as a higher executive officer (FCO Grade C4), in the applicable respective pay bands.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211999]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays its UK-based staff their normal rate of pay when they take short periods of absence for ill health. After accumulating a six months sick absence during any rolling period of twelve months, they are paid at 50 per cent. of their normal salary for up to a maximum of a further six months during any rolling period of four years or less.

We have estimated the total amount of salary which the FCO paid to its UK civil servants during sickness absences in the calendar years 2005 to 2007. These figures are set out in the following table. We do not, unfortunately, hold data on sickness pay before 2005. These figures do not include sick pay to locally-engaged staff, details of which are not held centrally.

Calendar year	*Total salary paid to staff on sick leave (£)*
2005	1,634,182
2006	1,577,514
2007	2,152,183

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210560]

Meg Munn: The Human Resources directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent the following on training courses:

£9,478,424 in financial year 2006-07; and

£12,153,081 in financial year 2007-08.

These figures include e-learning, language and other training courses. Policy and technical training courses provided by other FCO directorates, individual home

Departments and overseas posts have not been included, as the collation of this information would incur disproportionate cost. Spend figures for previous years are also unavailable, except at disproportionate cost.

FCO Services Human Resources department spent the following on training courses:

£2,505,412 in financial year 2006-07; and

£955,082 in financial year 2007-08.

These figures include the cost of specialist, generalist and language training. They do not include any additional costs for e-learning, which is a single system across the FCO and has been costed in the FCO figures above. Spend figures for previous years are unavailable, except at disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will put in place measures to ensure that when a UK Ambassador returns from their posting abroad other senior diplomatic staff in the same embassy are not relocated at the same time. [214464]

Meg Munn: Our ambassadors and other diplomatic staff at our embassies are appointed to their positions for agreed tour lengths. These vary according to the nature of the job and the demands of the country in which they are serving. Where two senior staff, for example an ambassador and a deputy head of mission, are due to leave a post at the same time, arrangements will normally be made for one or other of them to vary their departure date to ensure continuity. Each case will however be judged on its merits, taking into account the operational needs of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office world wide.

Iran: Iraq

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Iranian funding of the Revolutionary Guard Qods Force in Iraq. [214328]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Qods Force (QF) is a branch of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), and as such is an agency of the Iranian state. We assess that the IRGC and the IRGC-QF is involved in training, equipping and supplying Iraqi armed groups. Any Iranian support to armed groups operating outside the political process in Iraq is unacceptable. Both the Government and the sovereign Government of Iraq have made this clear to the Iranian authorities on many occasions.

Iraq: Christianity

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the situation of the Christian minority communities in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [213899]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all sectors of Iraqi society, the Christian community has been affected by the unacceptable level of violence in Iraq which continues despite improvements in the overall security environment. Our diplomatic missions and my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd), Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq, regularly raise with the Government of Iraq the need for adequate protection of all minority groups.

Progress on national reconciliation is the fundamental requirement to create a sustainable and secure environment for all Iraqis and we continue to support the Government of Iraq in efforts to achieve that goal.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to Iran since January 2008 on using its influence to try to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah in June and July 2006; what representations he has received since January 2008 about this issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [214054]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has not made any specific representations to the Iranian government on this issue. And while the fate of the three captured soldiers is a regular part of the UK's dialogue with a range of partners, including Israel, Egypt and the UN, we have not received any direct representations about this issue. However, we would encourage all who have influence to use that responsibly to ensure the safe release of these soldiers.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve the release of the soldiers captured by Hezbollah is to support efforts by the UN to mediate between the parties as part of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. We continue to support the efforts of the Governments of Israel, Egypt and others to negotiate the release of Gilad Shalit.

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon troops to prevent Hezbollah re-arming. [214037]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The deployment of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) under UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 has been a success. There are now approximately 13,000 UN troops deployed as part of the enhanced UNIFIL contingent alongside a similar number from the Lebanese army. Since the expansion of the UNIFIL force following the passage of UNSCR 1701 in August 2006, the cessation of hostilities has largely been maintained and the area of operations has been largely stabilised. The UK fully supports UNIFIL, whose presence has been critical in maintaining peace and security in south Lebanon.

We continue to work for the full implementation of UNSCR 1701. UNIFIL's presence has had an impact on Hezbollah's ability to rearm and operate south of the Litani river. Nevertheless, we continue to be concerned by reports by the UN Secretary-General that Hezbollah is rearming and smuggling arms across the Syria/Lebanon border.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposal by President Sarkozy for a nuclear disarmament action plan; and whether he plans to discuss this matter with his French counterpart. [214311]

Dr. Howells: The Government welcomes the proposals made by President Sarkozy in his 21 March 2008 speech and expanded upon in France's White Paper on Defence and National Security, published 17 June 2008. UK officials are working closely with their French opposite numbers to explore how progress can be made on each element of the plan. The UK is currently pursuing a number of disarmament initiatives, which complement the French proposals.

Religious Freedom

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote religious tolerance in other countries in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [213906]

Meg Munn: We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief, including full implementation of those norms laid out in the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. We have made representations in several countries bilaterally and in conjunction with EU partners. More detailed information is contained in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights that can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/human-rights-report-2007.

Taliban

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions has he had with President Karzai of Afghanistan on pursuing Taliban insurgents in Pakistani territory. [214229]

Dr. Howells: Afghanistan and Pakistan have a strategic interest in working together. We continue to encourage both governments to take forward their shared commitment to combat the Taliban and other insurgent groups who oppose both Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction and the authorities on both sides of the border.

Zimbabwe: Political Prisoners

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of political detainees in Zimbabwe. [215290]

David Miliband: It is difficult to provide an accurate estimate of the total number of political detainees in Zimbabwe, with opposition supporters and activists being arrested and detained on the most tenuous grounds on a daily basis. Latest reports suggest that over 650 people were detained in the last week. In addition, since the first round of presidential elections on 29 March, international organisations have dealt with 34,000 displaced people and 2,700 injured by the ZANU-PF campaign of violence. The real numbers will likely be much higher. We have had confirmation of at least 84 opposition supporters murdered.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Oil

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of global oil that will be consumed by *(a)* Congo, *(b)* Angola, *(c)* Namibia and *(d)* South Africa in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [215407]

Gillian Merron: The current (2007) consumption of fuel oil in South Africa is about 0.7 per cent. of global demand. Figures are not available for Congo, Angola and Namibia where consumption is much less and globally insignificant.

The total demand of continental Africa, including South Africa, is approximately 3.5 per cent. of global oil demand.

Future trends are uncertain, but Africa's overall share of the total is likely to remain much the same as at present over the next few years, though will gradually increase over time if it continues to achieve economic growth at above the world average rate.

Congo Basin Fund

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the Congo Basin Fund has been allocated for the manufacture of a satellite monitoring system by the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory; and what organisation will operate the system once launched in 2010. [215855]

Mr. Thomas: Funds from the Congo Basin Forest Fund have not yet been allocated. However, the UK has allocated an additional £8 million to support start-up projects that have an immediate impact on the lives of people who live in the rainforest. One of the start-up projects includes allocation of funding of up to £1.14 million for a British-made high-resolution camera made by the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and £1.5 million for the first ever satellite data receiver in Central Africa so that images can be easily accessed by the Governments and civil society in the region and help provide evidence against illegal loggers. Technical discussions are ongoing.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212883]

Mr. Malik: The only property owned by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK is our office in East Kilbride. This was last valued in April 2006, at £9,250,000. We also own property in a number of overseas countries, which are valued in total at £5,596,644.

DFID has no other associated public bodies which own property.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214694]

Mr. Malik: The requested information could not be gathered without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is compliant with the Financial Reporting Manual (FreM) when compiling its accounts.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215533]

Mr. Malik: There have been no planning or licensing applications on behalf of the Department for International Development in the last 24 months.

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215207]

Mr. Malik: The following table gives details of centrally funded expenditure on newspapers and other regular publications. The figures include publications in both paper and electronic format, many of which are paid for on annual subscriptions. Some newspapers and regular publications are also funded from local budgets, including by DFID's county offices. Figures for local expenditure could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Month	*Newspapers, magazines and other publications (£)*
April 2006	78
May 2006	99
June 2006	1,153
July 2006	87
August 2006	79
September 2006	47,073
October 2006	517
November 2006	77
December 2006	37,7.6
January 2007	78
February 2007	68
March 2007	92
April 2007	74
May 2007	1,328
June 2007	2,378
July 2007	80
August 2007	10,951
September 2007	4,692
October 2007	89
November 2007	68,004
December 2007	3,438
January 2008	16,587
February 2008	13,042
March 2008	11,142

Expenditure varies considerably from month to month because most publications are purchased on subscription with one annual payment.

Developing Countries

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the principal proposals in the World Bank options paper of October 2007 on Government reforms to increase the voice of developing countries. [215600]

Mr. Thomas: The October 2007 paper contains a number of important proposals to increase the voting power and representation of developing countries at the World Bank. The principal proposals include: an increase in basic votes for all countries (which would primarily benefit the poorest countries); measures to strengthen the voice of developing countries at the Board of Executive Directors; and a review of the process for selecting the President of the Bank. The UK Government welcome these proposals and is actively engaged in discussions to reach agreement by April 2009 on a package of measures that will increase the voice of developing countries at the World Bank.

International Monetary Fund: Managers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his foreign counterparts on an open and merit-based selection of *(a)* the International Monetary Fund's managing director and *(b)* the World Bank's president. [215601]

Mr. Thomas: On 13 April 2008, at the World Bank Spring Meetings, the Secretary of State for International Development participated in a discussion with other World Bank Governors on voice and representation one element of which is the selection process of the World Bank President. The UK secured positive language on voice in the outcome document of the Spring Meetings, including the setting of a target date of April 2009 for agreement on a comprehensive package of reforms. The Chancellor of the Exchequer leads for the UK in discussions about the selection of the International Monetary Fund's Managing Director and has publicly stressed the importance of an open and merit-based selection process.

Iraq: Christianity

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid has been provided by his Department for members of Iraq's Christian minority who have fled the conflict in Iraq in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [213900]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to improving the humanitarian situation both of internally displaced people in Iraq and of Iraqi refugees in the region. We have provided over £149 million in humanitarian assistance to international agencies working in Iraq and the region since 2003—including £17 million this year. This funding has helped to provide immediate assistance such as food, shelter and medical supplies to the most vulnerable people in Iraq.

We are aware of the fact that some groups may be particularly vulnerable due to ethnic or religious affiliation, such as the Christian minority. However, it is not the UK's policy to provide direct assistance to any particular religious group in Iraq. Rather, we channel our assistance through established international organisations, notably the United Nations, with a mandate to provide protection to all refugees—regardless of ethnicity or religion—and to distribute aid to those who need it most.

Malawi: Health Education

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* tackle HIV/AIDS, *(b)* improve other health services and *(c)* improve education in Malawi in 2008-09. [213335]

Gillian Merron: For 2008-09, the Department for International Development (DFID) currently expects to spend from existing commitments:

£2.4 million on HIV/AIDS;

£18.8 million directly to the health sector; and

£10 million to improve education.

DFID also plans to provide £22 million of poverty reducing budget support, of which, we would broadly expect £4.2 million to be spent on education and £4.4 million on health.

In addition to direct DFID funding, in 2008-09, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria plan to provide around £46 million to fight HIV/AIDS in Malawi, and around £15 million to the health programme. The UK Government have made long-term commitments of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund. Over the three years commencing 2008, this counts for 7.5 per cent. of Global Fund resources.

In 2008-09, the World Bank plan to provide around £4 million to support HIV/AIDS in Malawi and up to £2 million to health via budget support. It plans to provide up to £4.5 million directly and indirectly to education. The UK Government have made a three-year commitment of £2.13 billion to the World Bank's International Development Assistance round 15. This counts for 14 per cent. of new contributions to the World Bank.

In 2008-09, the European Union is proposing to provide up to £4 million for health through project funding and indirectly through budget support for and up to £3.2 million to education via budget support. The UK provides more than 14 per cent. of all EU development funding.

The UK Government have also committed £6 billion to strengthening health systems and services over seven years to 2015 in the updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world".

A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212113]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are no plans for any Minister or officials from the Department for International Development to attend the Olympics in Beijing in an official capacity.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 July 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of the Electoral Commission in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215566]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that for 2007-08, there were 411 domestic air flights undertaken within Great Britain at a total cost of £52,776.37.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the estimated *(a)* set-up costs and *(b)* yearly running costs of the Electoral Commission's new offices in (i) Exeter, (ii) York and (iii) Coventry are. [215491]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the set-up costs for the English regional offices totalled £113,800.

These costs break down as: (i) Exeter: £11,400, (ii) York: £11,500 and (iii) Coventry: £47,300. In addition, £43,600 was incurred on costs that are not directly attributable to the individual offices, including the combined joint recruitment process for staff and costs of head office staff in facilitating the set-up of the offices.

The estimated yearly running costs requested are (i) Exeter: £200,000, (ii) York: £281,000 and (iii) Coventry: £219,000. These costs include staffing, accommodation and associated running costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many reviews of electoral regulation the Electoral Commission has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215628]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has commenced the following reviews of electoral regulation since July 2007.

(i) A review of the legislative framework for Returning Officers' election accounts and the accounting arrangements operated by Returning Officers at the National Assembly for Wales elections in 2007.

(ii) An examination of key issues relating to the regulation of elections in the United Kingdom, including the legal framework for running elections, the system of funding elections and measures for ensuring accountability of electoral administrators.

(iii) A consultation on regional ballot papers and regional agents as they relate to the conduct of National Assembly for Wales elections.

(iv) A consultation on the registration of political party descriptions.

I am informed that the report of the aforementioned first of the reviews listed was published in March 2008 and that the reports of the others will be published later this year. In addition, the Commission will be publishing reports on the administration of the following elections by the end of July 2008:

May 2008 local elections in England;

May 2008 local elections in Wales; and

May 2008 elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215459]

David Cairns: The information is as follows.

In the 2004-05 Session the Scotland Office:

(a) answered 29 per cent. of 113 ordinary written questions within five sitting days.

(b) answered 57 per cent. of seven named day questions on the day specified.

In 2005-06 Session the Scotland Office:

(a) answered 48 per cent. of 166 ordinary written questions within five sitting days.

(b) answered 89 per cent. of 18 named day questions on the day specified.

In 2006-07 Session the Scotland Office:

(a) answered 57 per cent. of 223 ordinary written questions within five sitting days.

(b) answered 71 per cent. of 35 named day questions on the day specified.

Taxation

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on arrangements for collection of local taxation in Scotland. [216496]

David Cairns: I have had no discussions with the Scottish Executive on arrangements for collection of local taxation in Scotland.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit: EC Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the average child tax credit payment to EEA nationals resident in the UK in each of the last four years. [215383]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Children: Day Care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to spend on his Department's child care voucher scheme in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [215798]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury pays up to £40 per week to staff depending on eligibility. The annual budgeted cost for the voucher scheme is £180,000 and annual spend based on historic usage is likely to be unchanged for the next five years.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT contracts his Department and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215120]

Angela Eagle: The IT contracts entered into in the last two years by the Treasury Group, which includes HMT, OGC, OGCbuying.solutions and DMO, are as follows:

IS Agency Staff
IS Consultancy
Comprehensive Spending Review website
Participation Agreement with SPRINT (SCC & Dataserv)
Technical support and minor enhancements to Learning Management System (Docent)
Microsoft Enterprise agreements
Data Link between Trevelyan House and 1HGR
Technical Refresh of television service
PC Refresh
Data circuit from London-Norwich
Crystal software maintenance
Firewall design and support
Intranet information architecture survey
Data circuit from London-Leeds
Server Hardware
Business continuity, Cryptos
Apple Mac support service
Storage Area Network
COINS Infrastructure and Servers
Content Management System
AEP Net Remote
Hard Disk Encryption
Laptop Refresh
Data Centre Servers (DCW)
SalesLogix Support, Maintenance and Development
Bond Auction Capture System
Straight through processing (STP) tool support and maintenance
IT Service management tool and licences
Service Desk software system upgrade
Corporate software licensing agreement
Modernised features for the core trading system
Data centre & recovery work space services
Spreadsheet Management Tool support & maintenance
Hardware goods and warranties
Installation and managed provision of IPVPN network connections
Supply and installation of video conferencing equipment and associated network connections including support and maintenance services

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212507]

Angela Eagle: Average pay per hour has been obtained from the payroll, which does not differentiate between permanent and temporary staff.

The hourly rate information is based on annual FTE salary as at 1 August 2007.

Range	*Average hourly rate (£)*
B	10.27
C	12.45
D	16.24
E	25.22
SCS pay band 1	35.02
SCS pay band 2	53.11
SCS pay band 3	66.08

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214557]

Angela Eagle: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215456]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Treasury Ministers are committed to answering parliamentary questions promptly wherever possible. In the 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 parliamentary sessions, 79 per cent., 75 per cent. and 71 per cent. respectively of the named day questions we received were answered on the day nominated by the questioner. In the same three sessions, 84 per cent., 80 per cent. and 83 per cent. of ordinary written questions were answered within a working week of tabling (as provided for in Erskine May, Twenty-third edition, page 342). The corresponding figures for named day questions and ordinary written questions in 2007-08 to date are 60 per cent. and 73 per cent.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government communication network. [215098]

Angela Eagle: The number of press officer posts in the Treasury and its agencies, OGD, OGCbs and DMO remains constant at 13 full-time equivalents. All have access to the Government communication network.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional yield of an income tax rate of *(a)* 50 per cent. on taxable incomes exceeding £250,000 per annum and *(b)* 45 per cent. on taxable incomes exceeding £250,000 per annum. [216411]

Jane Kennedy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Midlothian (Mr. Hamilton) on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 113-14W.

Office of Government Commerce: Postal Services

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 713-15W, on departmental standards, what the scope was of the Gateway review undertaken in 2005 on the OGC project Postal Services. [215517]

Angela Eagle: There were two OGC Gateway reviews undertaken on the Postal Services project in 2005:

Gateway Review 1 Business justification

The scope of the OGC Gateway 1 Review was to confirm that the business case was robust that in principle it met business need, was affordable, achievable; that appropriate options were explored and that it was likely to achieve value for money

Gateway Review 2 Delivery strategy

The scope of the OGC Gateway 2 Review was to confirm the outline business case and to ensure that the procurement strategy was robust and appropriate.

The full scope of each Gateway review is set out in the OGC Gateway™ Process documents which can be found on the OGC website:

www.ogc.gov.uk

Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 713-15W, on departmental standards, what the scope was of the Gateway Reviews undertaken in 2004 and 2006 on the OGC project Zanzibar (P). [215516]

Angela Eagle: There were three OGC Gateway reviews undertaken on the Zanzibar project in the period 2004 to 2006:

Gateway Review 2 Delivery strategy

The scope of the Gateway 2 Review was to confirm the outline Business Case and to ensure that the proposed Procurement Strategy was robust and appropriate.

Gateway Review 3 Investment Decision

The scope of the Gateway 3 Review was to confirm the business case and benefits plan, and to check whether all the necessary statutory and procedural requirements were followed throughout the procurement process.

Gateway Review 4 Readiness for service

The scope of the Gateway 4 Review was to confirm whether contractual arrangements were up to date, that necessary testing had been done to the client's satisfaction and that the client was ready to approve implementation.

The full scope of each Gateway review is set out in the OGC Gateway™ Process documents which can be found on the OGC website:

www.ogc.gov.uk

Smuggling: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the *(a)* time and *(b)* resources of HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland was allocated to tackling illegal fuel smuggling in each of the last three years; [214998]

(2) how many and what percentage of HM Revenue and Customs staff in Northern Ireland are working on oil-related anti-smuggling work. [214999]

Angela Eagle: All HMRC Detection staff in Northern Ireland work on a multi-functional basis, deployed to meet the full range of detection duties, including tackling oils related anti-smuggling work.

HMRC do not record the time or resources specifically allocated to tackling illegal fuel smuggling.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many vehicles in Northern Ireland were detected illegally running on red diesel in each of the last three years; [215034]

(2) how many vehicles in England and Wales were detected illegally running on red diesel in each of the last three years (a) in total and (b) broken down by region. [215035]

Angela Eagle: We do not centrally record the number of vehicles running on red diesel.

Taxation: Tax Yield

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely change in the projected revenue receipts announced in Budget 2008 from *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* stamp duty and *(c)* corporation tax for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [216150]

Jane Kennedy: Latest estimates of the growth in *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* stamp duty and *(c)* corporation tax receipts in 2007-08 can be derived from table T1.2 on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.xls

The latest estimates of growth in receipts in 2008-09 were published in table C8 of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/3/bud08_chapterc.pdf.

Updated estimates will be published in the forthcoming pre-Budget report.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Public Statues: Oliver Cromwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the honourable Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the statue of Oliver Cromwell outside Parliament will be restored before the 350th anniversary of Cromwell's death. [214144]

Nick Harvey: Tenders for the conservation work to the statue of Cromwell and its stone plinth are currently being sought. Subject to a satisfactory outcome of the tendering process, the work will be carried out during the summer recess and completed in time for the 350th anniversary of Cromwell's death in September 2008.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in the Law Officers' Departments in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206793]

The Solicitor-General: The only Law Officers Department that has offered apprenticeships in the last year is the Crown Prosecution Service. There were 24 apprenticeships and no advanced apprenticeships within the Crown Prosecution Service in 2007-08.

Cannabis: Prosecutions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1069W, on cannabis factories, when she plans to send to the hon. Member for Totnes the information she received from the Chief Crown Prosecutor on the 15-year-old Vietnamese boy in Doncaster jailed for tending cannabis plants. [216412]

The Solicitor-General: I have sent a letter today to the hon. Member with details of the case he refers to.

Crown Prosecution Service: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Solicitor-General how many Crown Prosecution Service personnel are employed in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* Thames Valley. [214930]

The Solicitor-General: There is a total of 225 staff in CPS Thames Valley. Of these, 58 staff are based in the Buckinghamshire office, which covers both Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. The Buckinghamshire office is split geographically into two teams. There are 22.6 staff members on the Milton Keynes team and there are nine staff members in overarching roles that contribute to both Aylesbury and Milton Keynes work. There is an expectation that crown prosecutors from the South Bucks team could be asked to attend courts and charging centres in Milton Keynes and vice versa. The same applies in relation to administrative duties.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports she has received from the UK Border Agency on consultations the Agency has conducted with *(a)* controllers and *(b)* owners of (i) small ports and (ii) airports on security threats and vulnerabilities. [214805]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has received no such consultations.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the National Counter Terrorism Security Office on preventing the use of small aircraft as airborne vehicle bombs. [214807]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have worked with the police and security agencies to prepare advice to all airfields that host small aircraft operations and flying schools. Leaflets and an anti-terrorist hotline number have been issued to ensure that aerodrome managers are able to report any concerns at their airfields.

Aviation: Royal Family

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost was of feasibility studies and work carried out on the project to lease two aircraft for sole use by the Royal Family and Government Ministers which was cancelled on 27 March 2008. [212862]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: The total cost of the technical, commercial and financial analysis carried out under the Royal and Ministerial Air Travel Project was £1.25 million. The work was carried out between February 2007 and March 2008, in accordance with Government procurement policy guidelines.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by her Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215168]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures her Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to her Department. [214701]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff secondments are an integral part of the Department's workforce and help ensure we have the necessary skills to meet our business needs. While we must always ensure that such secondees have the skills and experience required, the Department aims to attract a fully diverse range of secondees. The filling of all vacancies, including secondments, is subject to our existing diversity policy to ensure equal opportunities and treatment. Secondees are included in the Departments diversity statistics and targets, which are currently under review.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in her Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if she will make a statement. [213154]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff in the Department and its agencies are subject to criminal record checks when they move to sensitive posts.

Vetting across the Department is carried out by the DfT Vetting Team. However, they carry out checks for a number of agencies and organisations and do not keep separate records or statistics on total numbers by units.

The Department for Transport application for registration is currently with Disclosure Scotland to ensure that unspent criminal records are checked for all staff to meet the Baseline Security Standards requirements.

Driving Licences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints were received by *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and *(b)* her Department on the process by which licence applications are processed by DVLA in each year since 1997, broken down by category of complaint. [214737]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(a) Prior to the 2001-02 financial year driver complaints were not sub-categorised and the total driver complaints in each year were:

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*
Total drivers	250	384	908	597

Since then, driver complaints have been sub-divided into the following categories with associated numbers.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Non receipt of driving licence	57	86	87	126	108	204	150
Errors on driving licence	199	195	202	174	186	203	226
Driving licence complaint	168	262	310	312	224	264	281
Driver medical complaint	129	141	429	200	149	288	443
Total drivers	553	684	1,028	812	667	959	1,100

(b) Complaints received by the Department relating to the way in which driving licence applications are processed are passed to DVLA and are included in the figures provided above.

Driving: Crime

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what record is kept of motoring offences committed overseas by holders of United Kingdom driving licences. [214742]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no record held on the DVLA database of driving offences committed overseas by United Kingdom licence holders.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effects on the profitability of the operator of Heathrow Airport of the volume of air traffic movements set out in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document. [209271]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No specific assessment has been made of the change in the profitability of the operator of Heathrow airport that would result from additional capacity at that airport.

The breakdown of benefits from additional airport capacity set out in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document, between passengers, airport operators, Government, and wider effects, are reported in table 4.3 of 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts'. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The table reproduces the figures for the three consultation document options. The row entitled 'Producers' refers to the benefit attributed to airport operators for the purpose of strategic appraisal. This is based on the estimated change in the surplus of revenue over operating costs at all UK airports resulting from the additional capacity. The estimated costs of constructing a third runway and associated infrastructure at Heathrow airport are reported in the consultation document as £7 billion.

The impact on the operator of Heathrow airport's profitability would also depend on any impacts on landing charges, and the regulatory regime, which would be a matter for the airport operator, airlines, and the CAA.

'Adding Capacity at Heathrow' consultation: breakdown of transport user benefits by option, £ billion, NPV, 2006 prices

Option	*One*	*Two*	*Three*
Generated users	9	9	9
Existing users			
Freight users			
Producers	5	5	5
Government	3	3	3
Carbon	-5	-5	-5
Noise			
Delay reductions			
Users	*	1	2
Carbon	*		
Total	12	13	14

' ' Means a non-zero impact is estimated, but the result rounds to nought at zero decimal places.

'*' Means no impact has been estimated.

Note:

Figures are rounded to zero decimal places.

Highways Agency: Planning

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many community projects are awaiting Highways Agency access criteria approval, broken down by local authority. [209264]

Mr. Tom Harris: At the present time there is one community project awaiting such approval. The Agency is working closely with Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council over the co-location of Shrewsbury College but has directed that this is not approved for the time being to allow for further details to be provided by the applicant.

M1

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the costs of *(a)* widening the M1 between junctions 10 and 13 and *(b)* deploying hard shoulder running on this stretch. [209066]

Mr. Tom Harris: We announced in March that we had asked the Highways Agency to investigate alternative options for adding capacity to the M1 between junctions 10 and 13, including hard shoulder running. This work is under way and due to be complete by the autumn. Cost estimates are subject to further work and validation as part of this process.

Motorways: Road Works

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she plans to make a decision on the uncompleted parts of the M1/M62 widening/improvements package; and what recent estimate she has made of the cost of this package; [209065]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the costs of *(a)* widening the M6 between junctions 11a and 19 and *(b)* deploying hard shoulder running on this stretch; [209067]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the costs of *(a)* widening uncompleted parts of the M1/M62 widening and improvement package and *(b)* deploying hard shoulder running in these areas. [209068]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 4 March 2008 the Secretary of State published the "Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study". She also announced that the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency would undertake additional detailed work examining managed motorway schemes for those areas identified in the feasibility study as being a high priority, including stretches of the M1, M6 and M62. This includes examining whether hard shoulder running could provide a better value for money solution for schemes which were previously planned as widenings, and this will include the production of cost estimates for these hard shoulder running schemes.

As part of this process, the cost estimates for the widening schemes following the Nichols Review are subject to further work and validation. This work is under way and due to be complete by the end of the year.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list those Ministers who have requested the use of official cars which have been manufactured in the UK in the last three years; and how many such requests were *(a)* met and *(b)* not met. [215748]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 2 July 2008]*: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides ministerial cars and drivers in line with the "Ministerial Code". In the last three years, GCDA has purchased 10 cars that were manufactured in the UK. Nine of these cars were for the use of Secretaries of State and one was for the use of a Minister outside the Cabinet.

Official Cars: Excise Duties

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 154W, on official cars: excise duties, which ministers use the band G vehicle. [215142]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2832W, given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff within her Department are working on transport issues for the 2012 Olympic Games. [211414]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has an Olympic division staffed by 2.75 full time equivalents who oversee the Department's interests in the games. Across the Department a number of staff at all levels are contributing to work related to the games.

Public Safety Zones: Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the most recent changes were made by the National Air Traffic Service to its procedures for modelling public safety zones for gliders; and for what reason such changes were made. [216279]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Public safety zones (PSZs) are implemented only at the busiest airports. Risk contours for each airport are based on forecasts on the number and type of aircraft movements.

NATS use a range of data types from generic categories, the aircraft type needs to be broken down by operation, this needs to be classified into categories, for example passenger and cargo.

Gliders do not fall into any of these categories and are not taken into account as they are not usually found at the busiest airports and so are not incorporated into airport forecasts when PSZs are modelled.

Railway Network

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many of the 25 light rail schemes envisaged in the Government's Ten Year Plan for Transport have been delivered; [212614]

(2) how many miles of light rail line have been constructed since January 2000; and in what locations; [212615]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 10-year plan published in July 2000 set out indicative figures for the number of light rail schemes that might be delivered by 2010. This was neither a target nor a commitment for the Government. There are currently eight light rail and tramway systems in operation in England.

Over 45 miles of light rail lines have been constructed in England since 2000, as set out in the following table:

Name and location of system	*Route miles*
Docklands Light Railway (London)—Extension to London City Airport	2.7
Tyne and Wear Metro (Newcastle)—Extension to Sunderland	11.5
Manchester Metrolink Phase 1 (Manchester)—Extension to Eccles	24.2
Croydon Tramlink (Croydon)—3 lines	18
Nottingham Express Transit (Nottingham)	9

In addition, the Docklands Light Railway Extension to Woolwich Arsenal which commenced in June 2005 is expected to be complete in 2009.

In May 2008, we granted final approval with £244 million towards the £382 million cost to extend the Manchester Metrolink to Oldham, Rochdale and Chorlton. Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive is also providing funding separately to a further extension to Droyslden. We also announced in June 2008 that we are prepared to invest £1.5 billion in support of a £2.8 billion package of measures for Greater Manchester to proceed with its bid under the Government's Transport Innovation Fund. This package includes plans for up to a further 22 miles of extension to the Manchester Metrolink system.

We have also announced initial funding approval for two extensions for the Nottingham Express Transit and a scheme to refurbish the Blackpool and Fleetwood tram system.

The Department for Transport is currently considering further proposals to reinvigorate the existing Tyne and Wear Metro.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were caused by newly-qualified drivers in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [215772]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

However, the Department recently published a research report on the experiences and attitudes of learner and new drivers, including their involvement in accidents. The research studies candidates who completed a postal survey after their practical driving test, and if they passed at six, 12, 24 and 36 months subsequently. The research found that the highest accident rates occurred in the first six months after passing the practical test. This rate was estimated to be equivalent to 0.44 accidents per year. The accident rate then dropped in the next six months to an equivalent of 0.24 accidents per year. The accident rates given include accidents involving low speed manoeuvring, for example in car parks and drives.

The full study is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/cohort2/

Rolling Stock: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department had spent on consultancy fees on procurement of the 1,300 extra rail carriages contained in the High Level Output Statement programme at the latest date for which figures are available. [212611]

Mr. Tom Harris: Up to the end of May 2008 the Department has spent £518,000 on consultant's fees for Pendolino carriages on the West Coast Main Line, and approximately £1.1 million on consultant's fees for the procurement of new rolling stock on the Thameslink programme.

Speed Limits: Signs and Markings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the use of repeat or reminder speed limit signs. [216626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The law relating to speed limit signs is contained in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD). This states that repeater signs are required to be placed at regular intervals on all roads except street lit roads on which a 30 mph speed limit is in force and unlit roads on which the national speed limit is in force.

Local authorities are responsible for ensuring repeater signs are placed in accordance with TSRGD.

Transport: Mayor of London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to have discussions with the Mayor of London on transport issues of shared responsibility. [211746]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State will meet the new Mayor of London shortly to discuss transport issues affecting London.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212911]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

(a) The entire estate of the Department for Work and Pensions was sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Land Securities Trillium under a PFI known as PRIME.

(b) The Rent Service do not hold the market value of the premises they occupy. All properties are leasehold.

The value of Health and Safety Executive's property (land and buildings) at 31 March 2008 was £64.3 million; £59.3 million of which relates to the Health and Safety Laboratory's PFI contract at Buxton.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement; [213691]

(2) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213709]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on new builds and major refurbishments completed by the Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 is provided in the following tables.

New builds completed with a cost in excess of £0.5 million

	Number
2005-06	3
2006-07	6
2007-08	5

Refurbishments completed with a cost in excess of £0.5 million

	Number
2005-06	154
2006-07	122
2007-08	31

BREEAM information relating to new builds and refurbishments completed for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is contained within the table as follows and has been reported in the Sustainable Development in Government Reports for 2006 and 2007. These can be accessed via the following links:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/sdig_report_2007.pdf

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/sdig_report_2006.pdf

New builds completed for a cost in excess of £0.5 million to which BREEAM was applied

BREEAM rating	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
A-Pass	0	0
B-Good	0	0
C-Very Good	0	5
D-Excellent	1	0
Total	1	5

BREEAM applications have not been made for refurbishments as they relate to internal refit only and therefore do not affect the fabric of the building.

BREEAM information for 2007-08 is currently being validated and collated by the Department for publication in the Sustainable Development in Government Report 2008. The latest BREEAM assessments do though demonstrate a positive trend and that ratings of very good to excellent are being achieved. In recognition of the need to achieve BREEAM excellence, the Department has included the objective within its overall Estate Strategy.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212512]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of people authorised to work from home within DWP is not collated centrally. It is controlled and managed locally and the collation of such information would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department uses to decide what information uploaded to his Department's website should be included in the "What's new" section of the website. [205485]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department uses the following criteria to decide what information published on its website to include in the "What's New" section.

Is it:

a new policy publication?

a new consultation?

a consultation response?

a new publicity campaign?

a significant new addition to the website?

The Department does not include every new addition to the website as this would make the "What's new" section too long and unusable.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the design of the "our values" logo used in his Department's literature cost. [211132]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP values comprise four elements: "Achieving the Best", "Looking Outwards", "Making a Difference" and "Respecting People", which are the guiding principles for how we deliver our services to our customers and have been in use since 2001, on a variety of products that relate to business and personal development. The cost of the development of values icons was £10,782.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 187W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received in 2007 by members of his Department's management board to be published. [215251]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214541]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215531]

Mrs. McGuire: Land Securities Trillium[1] has made 54 planning applications in the last 24 months in respect of sites occupied by the Department. This figure comprises seven applications to construct new properties located in Selly Oak, Hanley, Burnley, Bournemouth, Seven Kings London, Falkirk and Glasgow and a further 47 for lesser works at various locations, where applications were made for alterations such as plant installation (air conditioning condensing units), window replacements and roller shutter doors.

No licensing applications have been submitted by the Department.

[1] Land Securities Trillium provides the Department with fully fitted and serviced accommodation (under a 20 year PFI contract which commenced in 1998) and is responsible for the management of legal applications required to manage the estate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213517]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested on new furnishings and new vehicles is provided in the following table. All art works in the Department are on loan from the Government Art Collection.

£ million

Financial year	*Cost of new furnishings*[1]	*Cost of new vehicles*[2]
2005-06	8	4.163
2006-07	11	3.580
2007-08	5	0.008

[1] Total furniture costs include desks, chairs and other office furnishings.

[2] The figures provided for the cost of new vehicles represent capital spend. The Department changed from purchasing to leasing vehicles in August 2007.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214661]

Mrs. McGuire: Staff secondments to the Department are carried out in accordance with the Department's diversity and equality policies and procedures. There are no restrictions in relation to staff secondment on the grounds of issues such as age, grade, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. However, individual secondment opportunities may have their own specific requirements.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215643]

Mrs. McGuire: With regard to annual subscriptions cost in the financial year 2007-08, with premium Sky digital or cable television channels, the Department reports a nil spend for itself and its agencies.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214656]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997 to 1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people beginning to claim incapacity benefit were entitled to an age addition in each of the last five years. [209318]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance on-flows with an age addition

Flowed on in the year ending August	*With age addition*
2003	13,000
2004	12,800
2005	14,200
2006	14,000
2007	14,600

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures relate to number of claims, not the number of people. If a person flows on to incapacity benefit in the year ending August 2003, flows off incapacity benefit, then flows back on in the year ending August 2005, s/he will be counted as an on-flow in both of those years.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent sample.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments his Department and its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194328]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has made payments totalling £1.942 million in the last 24 months to Ipsos MORI in respect of professional fees and services.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215657]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department and its agencies do not subscribe to any copies of the *Morning Star* and there is therefore no cost incurred.

Pension Credit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in pension credit to pensioners in each year since October 2003. [214001]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The answer is shown in real terms and nominal terms in the following tables.

Table 1: Pension credit expenditure

Nominal terms (£ million)

		Outturn			*Provisional outturn*
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Minimum Income Guarantee	2,438	—	—	—	—
Pension Credit—Guarantee Credit	2,091	5,016	5,412	5,770	6,170
Pension Credit—Savings Credit	322	955	1,014	1,098	1,162
Total	4,851	5,971	6,426	6,869	7,332

Table 2: Pension credit expenditure

Real terms 2008-09 prices (£ million)

		Outturn			*Provisional outturn*
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Minimum Income Guarantee	2,799	—	—	—	—
Pension Credit—Guarantee Credit	2,401	5,603	5,921	6,136	6,355
Pension Credit—Savings Credit	369	1,067	1,109	1,168	1,197

Table 2: Pension credit expenditure

				Real terms 2008-09 prices (£ million)	
		Outturn			*Provisional outturn*
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total	5,569	6,670	7,030	7,305	7,552

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum as they have been rounded to the nearest million.
2. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee in October 2003.
3. Separate net expenditure figures for minimum income guarantee and pension credit in 2003-04 are not available. However, separate gross expenditure figures are available, and these have been used to apportion total net expenditure between the two benefits.

Source:

Budget 2008 Benefit Expenditure Tables and DWP Accounting Systems.

Vertex Data Science

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of contracts held by his Department with Vertex Data Science Ltd. was in each of the last five years. [212021]

Mrs. McGuire: Expenditure by the Department with Vertex Data Science Ltd. in each of the last five years is:

Financial year	*Annual expenditure (£)*
2007-08	22,045,000
2006-07	5,723,000
2005-06	4,000
2004-05	300
2003-04	600
Total	27,772,900

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in the Government Equalities Office in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212510]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office estimates the following rates of pay for permanent and temporary civil servants by pay band as shown in the following table.

Grade	*Hourly rate*[1]
Senior Civil Service	66.98
Grade 6	47.45
Grade 7	37.03
Senior Executive Officer	27.77
Higher Executive Officer (Developmental)	18.51
Higher Executive Officer	23.14
Executive Officer	20.25
Administrative Officer	17.36

[1] Includes contribution for national insurance, superannuation and pensions.

Employment: Discrimination

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with businesses on the elimination of gender discrimination in the workplace. [214119]

Barbara Follett: I have had a number of discussions with business organisations on gender and other equality issues over the last few months. In May I hosted a reception for over 100 businesswomen and female entrepreneurs. In June I met with John Cridland, Deputy Director-General of the CBI, and I was also pleased to attend and address a recent event organised by the CBI and TUC to launch their recent publication "Talent Not Tokenism".

Social Problems: Research

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research she has evaluated on the relationship between motherhood, family stability and social breakdown. [196430]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office has not commissioned or evaluated research on the relationship between motherhood, family stability and social breakdown.

Tax Office: Manpower

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with HM Treasury about the proportion of women among staff losing their jobs as a result of tax office reorganisation in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [212377]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* I have had no recent discussions with HM Treasury about this issue.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much timber and how many timber products were procured by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment; and at what cost. [213761]

Barbara Follett: None.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many part-time reserve air crew there are in *(a)* the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, *(b)* Air Experience Flights, *(c)* University Air Squadron Institutions and *(d)* the Royal Naval Reserve Air Branch. [214783]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the breakdown by category and the total number of part-time reserve air crew.

Branch	*Number of part-time reserve air crew personnel*
Reserve Air Force[1]	46
Air Experience Flights (AEF) and University Air Squadron Institutions (UAS)[2]	270
Royal Naval Reserve Air Branch (RNR)	108
Total	424

[1] The Reserve Air Force comprises the RAF Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.
[2] It is not possible to show separate figures for AEF and UAS.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of serving members of the armed forces who are unable to participate in frontline duties and who wish remain in active service; [215745]

(2) how many troops have been removed from frontline duties as a result of injury in each of the last five years. [215746]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 2 July 2008]*: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are in receipt of a military pension; and what the cost of military pension provision was on the last date for which figures are available. [214816]

Derek Twigg: The number of people in receipt of an armed forces pension as at 31 March 2007 and the cost for financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

	People in receipt of a pension	*Cost (£ billion)*
War Disablement Pension Scheme	212,535	1.038
Armed Forces Pension Scheme	383,021	3.028

The cost of pension provision has been interpreted as including the future financial liability. Within the MOD accounting records a liability is recognised to cover future pension payments to all members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. As at 31 March 2007, the liability was approximately £100 billion. There is no liability for the War Disablement Pension Scheme.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* individual service personnel accessing self-service terminals and *(b)* human resources staff in the services have received training on the use of the Joint Personnel Administration system. [215421]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 917W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Durham of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 556W, on armoured fighting vehicles, if he will break the £130 million expenditure down by year. [214457]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Expenditure on the Future Rapid Effects System since the launch of the assessment phase in 2004 is £127.993 million. This answer corrects the previous answer I gave on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 556W, to my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones). The breakdown of this figure by year is as follows:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2004-05	6.930
2005-06	48.748
2006-07	45.317
2007-08	26.998

Bomb Disposal

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1013-14W, on bomb disposal, what definition he uses of *(a)* improvised explosive device and *(b)* conventional munitions. [214563]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The definitions used by the Ministry of Defence for an improvised explosive device and conventional munitions are:

> Improvised explosive device is defined as a device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner, incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals, and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract. It may incorporate military stores but are normally devised from non-military components.
>
> Conventional munitions, in the context of conventional munitions disposal, are defined as stray munitions from both world wars, subsequent military conflicts and training. This can include those with chemical warheads.

Defence

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with defence sector *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* interest groups in the last 12 months. [204356]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Ministers have held the following meetings with defence sector manufacturers and interest groups specifically linked to defence sector manufacture over the period 7 May 2007 to 7 May 2008.

Secretary of State for Defence

6 May 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Boeing
2 August 2007 - Visit to Selex Sensors
3 August 2007 - Visit to Rolls Royce
16 August 2007 - Visit to Seebyte

11 February 2008 - Visit to Babcock Marine

15 February 2008 - Visit to Thales Optronics

Minister of State for the Armed Forces

4 September 2007 - Visit to NP Aerospace

Minister of Defence Equipment and Support

9 May 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Boeing

16 May 2007 - Meeting with representatives from CSEU Trades Union

21 May 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Civil Service Trades Unions

11 June 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Thales

21 June 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Marshalls of Cambridge

25 June 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Ultra Electronics

2 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from BAe Systems

12 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from EADS

12 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Lockheed Martin

16 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from BAeS, Thales, Babcock, VT, Carrier Alliance and CSEU Trades Union

23 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from GMB Union

24 July 2007 - Meeting with a representative from MBDA

24 July 2007 - Meeting with representatives from T&G Union

4 September 2007 - Meeting with a representative from EADS

13 September 2007 - Meeting with representative from GDUK

13 September 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Vector

18 September 2007 - Meeting with a representative from BAe Systems

18 September 2007 - Meeting with a representative from EADS

19 September 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Finmeccanica

4 October 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Boeing

18 October 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Qinetiq

29 October 2007 - Meeting with a representative from BAe Systems

29 October 2007 - Meeting with representatives from Lockheed Martin

31 October 2007 - Meeting with a representative from VT

31 October 2007 - Meeting with a representative from CVF JV

27 November 2007 - Meeting with representatives from BAe Systems

28 November 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Thales

28 November 2007 - Meeting with a representative from VT

12 December 2007 - Meeting with representatives from the CSEU Trades Union

13 December 2007 - Meeting with representatives from MBDA

18 December 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Serco

18 December 2007 - Meeting with a representative from Babcock

23 January 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Lockheed Martin

24 January 2008 - Meeting with a representative from the CSEU Trades Union

29 January 2008 - Meeting with representatives from Finmeccanica and Agusta Westland

29 January 2008 - Meeting with a representative from GD-UK

29 January 2008 - Meeting with representatives from CSEU Trades Union

30 January 2008 - Meeting with representatives from Boeing

30 January 2008 - Meeting with representatives from the West of England Aerospace Forum

5 February 2008 - Meeting with representatives from Marshalls

19 February 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Eurocopter

26 February 2008 - Meeting with representatives from EADS

26 February 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Finmeccanica

27 February 2008 - Meeting with a representative from BAe Systems

11 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Chemring

13 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Agusta Westland

18 March 2008 - Meeting with representatives from MBDA

20 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Joint Venture

20 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Thales

20 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Rolls Royce

25 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Qinetiq

27 March 2008 - Meeting with a representative from EADS

2 April 2008 - Meeting with a representative from Raytheon

3 April 2008- Meeting with representatives from CCSU Trades Union

Under-Secretary of State

Nil return

The Secretary of State has conducted visits to defence manufacturers in his capacities both as Secretary of State for Scotland and Secretary of State for Defence. For completeness, all such visits are included.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215557]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Car Allowances

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of car mileage payment is made under his Department's travel to work scheme; and when that level *(a)* was last and *(b)* will next be reviewed. [215420]

Derek Twigg: Civilian employees eligible for assistance with travel to the normal place of work following a transfer, have the additional costs based on the method of travel. Where a vehicle is used it is calculated using the private travel rate of motor mileage allowance of 25p per mile. The Department bases this on HM Revenue and customs authorised mileage allowance payments for travel above 10,000 miles. This has not changed since it was set on 6 April 2002. The private travel rate of motor mileage allowance will next be reviewed in line with any change to the HM Revenue and Customs rate for travel over 10,000 miles. No changes were made in 2007-08.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215175]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213201]

Derek Twigg: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

The Ministry of Defence issues a "Supplementary Document MOD Non Departmental Public Bodies" which is available on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4C8D6BF808054F469A638CFC40660008/0/MOD_non_departmental_publicbodies.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215574]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214547]

Derek Twigg: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of changing retrospectively all Gurkha and Gurkha veteran pension and gratuity arrangements so that they are the same as those relating to non-Gurkha soldiers for each year of their service. [214495]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The pension arrangements of serving and retired Gurkhas in service on or after 1 July 1997 were examined as part of the Review into Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service the outcome of which was announced on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 141-42WS. As a result, a pension transfer offer was made to all eligible Gurkhas to allow them to transfer their benefits from the Gurkha pension scheme to one of two armed forces pension schemes. The offer gave equivalent pension value only for service on or after 1 July 1997 at a cost of around £150 million.

These changes were a response to the changes in the Gurkha's role and status since the completion of the withdrawal from Hong Kong on 1 July 1997, when the Brigade became a UK based force. Before 1 July 1997 the Gurkhas were based primarily in the Far East, with an expectation that they would retire to Nepal.

The cost of extending the terms of the offer to give equivalent pension arrangements for prior service to Gurkhas serving on or after 1 July 1997 has been estimated at a total of around £320 million. No estimate has been made of the cost of including Gurkhas who ceased to serve prior to 1 July 1997 in these arrangements, although it is believed that this would run into many hundreds of millions of pounds. Such a move would also be counter to the general policy of successive Governments that there should be no retrospective improvements to pensions and similar benefits — a policy which has been applied across the public sector in the United Kingdom, not just to Gurkha veterans.

HMS Ontario

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government has ownership of the wreck of HMS Ontario; and if he will make a statement. [212600]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, on Kosovo: peacekeeping operations, whether he has received a request from NATO to extend the operational reserve force beyond 30th June. [214368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department did not receive a request from NATO to extend the deployment of the UK Operational Reserve Force battalion in Kosovo beyond 30 June 2008.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type are in the Royal Air Force. [214383]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF management plan for 2007-08 provides the numbers of aircraft planned to be in service with the RAF on 31 March 2009. The numbers are:

Aircraft type	*Fleet number*
Typhoon[1]	55
Tornado GR[2]	136
Tornado F3	59
Harrier[3]	77
Nimrod MR2	15
Nimrod R	3
Nimrod MRA4[4]	1
Tristar	9
VC10[5]	16
Sentry	7
Sentinel	5
Hercules K[6]	15
Hercules J	24
C-17[7]	5
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6
Sea King	25
Dominie	9
Hawk T1	107
Hawk 128[8]	12
Tucano	95
Vigilant	64
Viking	82

[1] Assessment of damage to one Typhoon which crashed in USA continues. If this is retained in the departmental fleet the total fleet will increase to 56.

[2] Two fewer aircraft have been withdrawn from service than planned, therefore actual number of Tornado GR now planned to be in service is 138.

[3] Does not reflect the loss of one Harrier on 16 June 2008, nor a further airframe which had previously been assessed as Cat 4 (damaged) during a 2005 ground incident and which has now been assessed as Cat 5 (beyond economic repair).

[4] Due to slippage of the programme, no Nimrod MRA4 will be delivered in the current period.

[5] Does not reflect that one aircraft will be retired in July 2008.

[6] Does not reflect the loss of one aircraft on 23 August 2007.

[7] Does not reflect that a sixth C-17 announced by Secretary of State on 26 July 2007 will be delivered in 2008.

[8] Does not reflect that three additional aircraft are now to be delivered in year.

Military Bases: Aviation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, which military airfield with a runway and infrastructure able to accommodate a Boeing 747 is closest to London. [216190]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, are the closest military airfields to London with a runway and infrastructure able to safely accommodate a Boeing 747.

Military Decorations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the roll of military recipients of the medals of the Order of the British Empire awarded between 1917 and 1922 is located; if he will place a copy in the Library; whether these awards were affected by the revision in the Order of the British Empire in 1922 and the creation of the George Cross in 1940; and if he will make a statement. [208635]

Derek Twigg: The duty of keeping records of appointments to the Order of the British Empire and awards of the associated British Empire Medal lies with the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, an office in the Royal Household.

If any internal administrative records of awards of the medal were kept by the Admiralty, War Office or Air Ministry between 1917 and 1922 they will either have been destroyed or passed to the National Archives (Public Record Office).

I am unable to comment on the changes that may have come about more recently as these are a matter for the Cabinet Office.

Prisoners of War

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding exists in the Special Fund for Far Eastern Prisoners of War; what will happen to the fund when all claimants are deceased; and what assessment he has made of the merits of using that fund to support long-term elderly care for former far eastern prisoners of war. [215017]

Derek Twigg: The Far East (Prisoners of War and Internees) Fund is a registered charity. As such, the management of the Fund is a matter for the Trustees who may be contacted by writing to the Secretary c/o 92 Denton Road, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5BD.

War Graves

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Commonwealth War Graves sites there are; and when each site was last inspected. [214349]

Derek Twigg: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) confirms it has over 23,000 sites in some 150 countries. Given the number of sites it is not possible to provide details on when each individual site was last inspected without incurring disproportionate cost.

World War I: Anniversaries

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on plans to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armistice in November 2008; and what events are proposed. [216036]

Derek Twigg: As I announced in my written ministerial statement on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 33-34WS, we plan to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War Armistice at an event centred around a service and wreath laying at the Cenotaph on

Tuesday 11 November. Planning for this event is progressing well and we are engaging with interested parties to ensure that we organise what I am sure will be a fitting event for this important anniversary. Details of the event will be announced once these plans are more fully developed.

We are in discussions with the French Government on their plans to mark the anniversary.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the decision not to proceed with the national implementation of the 101 non-emergency number; and if she will make a statement. [215270]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has decided not to continue to fund directly the live 101 (Single Non-Emergency Number) pilot areas but will continue to provide funding to support the national 101 telephony routing infrastructure to ensure that the number remains available for use by local areas wishing to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 service. This was a difficult decision taken in the context of significant pressures and competing policing and security priorities.

We acknowledge the many benefits achieved by the five pilot 101 partnerships and the commitment to improving services that these achievements represent. It is hoped that the lessons learned about effective partnership working and improved access and quality of service in dealing with community safety issues will be mainstreamed into local operations wherever possible.

The Home Office has also made available a 101 delivery toolkit which brings together all the work that has been put into 101. The toolkit provides details of the evaluation and lessons learned from the service to date and gives guidance, example documentation and supporting material to help areas explore, implement and operate the 101 service locally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 11, 19 and 25 February and 11 March from the hon. Member for Hereford on his constituent, Mrs. Jane Clegg (reference C442441) and her application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [207118]

Mr. Byrne: Under Cabinet Office guidelines, the chief executive of a Government agency may sign routine matters when directed by Ministers. In accordance with these guidelines a reply was sent by the chief executive of the UK Border Agency to the hon. Gentleman's letters of 11, 19 and 25 February on 6 March and to the hon. Gentleman's letter of 11 March on 8 April.

Police: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the levels of satisfaction with the police *(a)* following responses to 999 calls and *(b)* of victims of (i) violent crime, (ii) domestic burglary and (iii) theft in each police authority area in England in each year since 1997-98. [198522]

Mr. McNulty: In recent years public confidence in the police has been increasing and currently 52 per cent. think they are doing a good or excellent job in their local area. Increasing public confidence in crime fighting agencies is vitally important if crime is to be tackled effectively and if the public is to feel safer—that is why it is a key aim of this Government and a key part of the new Public Service Agreements.

Victims' satisfaction with the police has been improving over this period with small but significant improvements. Between 2004-05 and 2006-07 victims' satisfaction with the whole experience increased from 78.5 per cent. to 80.3 per cent.

Satisfaction data have been collected by police forces from victims of burglary, road traffic collisions, vehicle crime, violent crime and racist incidents since 2004-05. Data have not been collected separately on thefts.

Nationally, the overall satisfaction of victims of burglaries was 87.4 per cent. at the end of 2006-07, remaining stable since 2004-05. For victims of violent crime, overall satisfaction increased significantly in the same period to 74.5 per cent.

Home Office assessments of those data have been included in the Police Performance Assessments published in 2005, 2006 and 2007. These assessments show data and assessments for each police force in England and Wales and are available on the Home Office police performance and measurement website.

Data on satisfaction with the police following responses to 999 calls are not currently collected by the Home Office.

Ports: Environmental Health

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many port health inspectors were based at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Stansted, *(d)* Luton, *(e)* the Port of Dover and *(f)* other ports of entry in each year since 1997; [214525]

(2) whether her Department has a target ratio of passengers to port medical inspectors at ports of entry into the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement; [214533]

(3) how many port medical inspectors are in place at Heathrow Airport Terminal 5. [214579]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Health-related activity at international ports, airports and ground crossings in England falls into two distinct categories. First, local authorities (LAs) are responsible for implementation of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and regulations thereunder. Secondly, the UK Border Agency of the Home Office is responsible for implementation of the Immigration Act 1971.

Local authorities, and port health authorities constituted under the 1984 Act, deploy a variety of expert officers to apply the provisions of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1979, the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979, and the Public Health (International Trains) Regulations 1994 (all as amended), as the case may be, at the points of entry for which they are responsible.

LAs are supported in this by close working with the Health Protection Agency. Information is not held centrally about the detailed deployment of expert officers at seaports, airports and rail termini.

An immigration officer acting under the 1971 Act may require medical advice concerning the health status of a person subject to immigration control, in order to determine that person's application for entry to the United Kingdom. The immigration officer may refer that person to a medical inspector appointed under the 1971 Act for that purpose. Medical inspectors are appointed by the Health Protection Agency from registered medical practitioners who are available for such work, largely on a sessional or on-call basis. Information is not held centrally on the detailed deployment of medical inspectors at seaports, airports and rail termini.

Central Government do not lay down staffing ratios at points of entry. These are best determined by local operational managers.

Visas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the percentage of the world's population who would require a visa to enter the United Kingdom. [183007]

Mr. Byrne: In 2007 we issued the Cabinet Office Border Review. This confirmed that "Nationals of over one hundred countries—three-quarters of the world's population—must apply for permission (or visa) to come to the UK".

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I provided on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 342-43W, in which I provided information relating to visa and non-visa nationals entry to the UK.

WALES

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215539]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has submitted two planning applications in the last 24 months, relating to work to the fabric of Gwydyr House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many reviews of regulation his Department has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215625]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None, by the nature of its work the Wales Office does not exercise Executive functions, so does not impose regulatory burdens on business.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in his Department in the last 24 months. [215609]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has reported the loss of three passes, used solely for access to the Wales Office, in the past 24 months.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214895]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214896]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not have any in-house catering service. External caterers supply food and drink for meetings and receptions in London and Cardiff. Records are not kept in such a way as to show the amount paid for food separately. Catering for functions and meetings in London and Cardiff includes, where possible and consistent with value for money, a mixture of fair trade or locally sourced produce.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bookmakers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to bring forward amendments to the Gambling Act 2005 to ensure that bookmakers' list positions are recognised beyond 2012; and if he will make a statement. [215906]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We wish to see individual racecourses and the bookmakers who use them proceeding with detailed negotiations on the new contracts which will govern allocation of pitches and the parties' duties and responsibilities from 1 September 2012. I hope these negotiations will build on the key principles agreed by both sides in the Existing Betting Areas Working Party chaired by Sholto Douglas-Home. These principles were published on my Department's website. Among other issues, the Working Party considered how the interests of existing holders of pitch list positions might be protected.

I expect the outstanding issues to be resolved through negotiations and I will be convening a meeting in six months to assess progress. All options will continue to be kept under review, including the legislative option.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the allocation per person of office space is, in square metres, in *(a)* each of his Department's offices and *(b)* each office of its sponsored bodies. [208213]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The allocation per person of office space at the Department's Cockspur street office is 13.7 square metres. This does not include Tottenham Court road which houses the Government Art Collection.

(*b*) The allocation per person of office space is only available for the six sponsored bodies as shown in the following table.

	Allocation
Arts Council England	
Greater Peter Street, London	11.6
Pear Tree Court, London	8.9
Central Square, Newcastle on Tyne	18.1
Bond Street, Wakefield	30.5
Senate Court, Exeter	16.4
Granville Street, Birmingham	15.5
Eden House, Cambridge	17.2
Sovereign House, Brighton	16.6
Manchester House, Manchester	15.7
St. Nicholas Court, Nottingham	16.4
Bond Street, Dewsbury	21.4
Big Lottery Fund	
Beaufort House, Exeter	18.1
Pearl Assurance House, Nottingham	11.1
St. James Gate, Newcastle on Tyne	15.1
Carlton Tower, Leeds	22.2
Newton Ladywell House, Newtown	19.8
Cromac Quay, Belfast	14.2
York House, Manchester	14.8
Kingsway, Cardiff	20.1
Atlantic Quay, Glasgow	15.1
Elizabeth House, Cambridge	52.0
Plough Place, London	11.4
Apex House, Birmingham	18.9
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	
Victoria House, London	10.6
MLA East Midlands, Leicester	18.3
Regent House, Bury St Edmunds	20.0
MLA London, London	7.5
House of Recovery, Newcastle on Tyne	15.5
The Malt Building, Warrington	13.1
Unit 8/15/31, Winchester	13.2
Creech Castle, Taunton	23.0
Grosvenor House, Birmingham	24.0
Marshall Court, Leeds	17.4
Heritage Lottery Fund	
Carlton Tower, Leeds	19.2
St. Nicholas Building, Newcastle on Tyne	18.4
Holbein Place, London	12.6
Trinity Court, Exeter	23.8
King Street, Manchester	24.1
St. Mary Street, Cardiff	19.5
St. Nicholas Court, Nottingham	19.8
Bank House, Birmingham	23.9
Terrington House, Cambridge	24.2
Third Floor, Belfast	18.0
Thistle Street, Edinburgh	11.9
English Heritage	
Tanner Row, York	14.2
Colmore Row, Birmingham	15.7
Canada House, Manchester	20.7
National Monuments Record Centre,	
Swindon	35.6
Brooklands Ave, Cambridge	12.9
Blandford Street, London	4.6
Unit 5, Exeter	26.5
Queen Square, Bristol	7.6
Derngate, Northampton	18.1
Eastgate Court, Guildford	12.0
Isambard House, Swindon	22.5
Bunhill Row, London	16.5
Bessie Surtees House, Newcastle on Tyne	23.8
Old Sailors Home, Bristol	16.9
Wyndham House, Salisbury	49.7
Waterhouse Square, London	15.5
Sport England	
Minerva House, Leeds	18.1
Universal Sq, Manchester	15.6
Durham	21.1
Ashland House, Crewkerne	6.8
Reading	19.7
Victoria House, London	12.9
Bedford	20.6
Birmingham	12.3
Nottingham	21.3

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213195]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from the following websites:

1999-2006: <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp>

2007: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3599.aspx>

2008: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5125.aspx>

Copies are also available up to 2007 in the Library for the reference of hon. Members.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214670]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The accumulated cost of the Department's computer systems (including hardware, network devices, integrated data and telephony cabling, software development and database development) to 30 June 2008 is £11.375 million. The net book value of these assets as at 30 June 2008 is £4.356 million.

The recording of information technology assets in the Department's accounts is consistent with the Financial Reporting Manual (FreM).

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in each of the last three years. [213685]

Margaret Hodge: Spending is set out in the following table.

			£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	150	644	651
Artwork	242	262	314
Vehicles	—	—	—

Spending on artwork is predominantly purchases and commissions for the Government Art Collection. These artworks are displayed in British Government buildings both in the United Kingdom and around the world, playing a significant role in promoting British art and culture across diverse and international environments.

DCMS actively seeks to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. From April 2009, Departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative. The Government also fund a Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) which provides free advice and guidance to help all public sector buyers and their suppliers meet the policy.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213145]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport follows the HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard which includes a verification of unspent criminal records. In the last three years the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had 49 successful applicants. All of these were subject to a criminal record check and none were found to have a criminal record. The Defence Vetting Agency currently arranges for a random 20 per cent. check of the successful applicants on our behalf. This will increase to 100 per cent. from 1 October 2008.

Information for the previous seven years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department introduced a new waste management system into its Cockspur street offices in January 2007. Our main aim was to decrease the amount of waste we sent to landfill and to help our environmental management system gain certification to ISO 14001. Our recycling rate has increased from virtually zero to 60 per cent.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215470]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library the minutes of each of the meetings of the Emerging Technologies Group since 10 April 2008. [215264]

Andy Burnham: There have been no meetings of the Emerging Technologies Group since 10 April 2008, although the minutes of all the previous three meetings have been placed in the Library.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what usability and access standards are required of equipment suppliers to the digital switchover help scheme; and whether one-touch access to audio description is a specific requirement. [215900]

Andy Burnham: Usability and access standards for help scheme equipment are set out in the Core Receiver Requirements (CRR). I am arranging for copies of the CRR to be placed in the House Libraries. Audio description is a requirement of the CRR, however one-touch access is not.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements he requires the digital switchover help scheme contractor to have in place regarding disability equality impact assessments of decisions on the selection of help scheme equipment providers. [215901]

Andy Burnham: The choice of equipment is a matter for DSHS Ltd., the subsidiary set up by the BBC to administer the digital switchover help scheme.

Under the digital switchover help scheme agreement between the DCMS and the BBC, any equipment offered under the scheme must in general be suitable for a disabled person to use. Where the default option offered to eligible households is a digital terrestrial set top box, the equipment must meet the core receiver requirements of the scheme. If the default option is not a digital terrestrial set top box, the equipment must meet the core receiver requirements of the scheme as far as possible.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether digital television equipment providing talking menus and a talking programme guide will be available to disabled persons in Wales via the digital switchover help scheme from 2009 onwards. [215902]

Andy Burnham: The equipment provided by the digital switchover help scheme so far has not included a talking Electronic Programme Guide (EPG).

Recent trials of a talking Electronic Programme Guide developed by the Royal National Institute of the Blind appear promising, and will be kept under consideration by my department in relation to the scheme.

English Sports Council: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects targeting rural areas have received funding from Sport England's Community Projects Revenue Fund since 1999. [213794]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it does not distinguish between urban and rural areas in awarding and recording grants.

Office of Communications: Marketing

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how regularly Ofcom conducts public awareness campaigns regarding its regulatory role and powers; and what Ofcom's budget is for the next three years. [210491]

Andy Burnham: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the UK is sending a pistol team to the Beijing Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [215072]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Six shooters have been selected by the British Olympic Association to represent Team GB at the Beijing Olympics, one of whom will be competing in the 10 m air pistol event.

Piers: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what process funds are made available to assist Bournemouth in offering free entry to its pier. [213142]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has made available a funding package of £45 million over three years to help catalyse the regeneration of seaside resorts in England through cultural and heritage projects.

This is a capital funding programme. Bournemouth could, therefore, apply for funding from the Sea Change Programme to renovate the pier, but any revenue proposals, including offering free entry to the pier, would be a matter for the council.

Sport: Community Development

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Sport England through the Community Projects Revenue Fund in each year since 1999. [213791]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the Community Projects Revenue Fund is a generic term for a series of funding streams including Sports Action Zones and Priority Area Initiatives, and not a single funding stream for which such information is centrally held. It is not therefore possible to provide figures for how much was spent through the Community Projects Revenue Fund in each year since 1999. As such, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Sport England's Community Projects Revenue Fund has been spent in areas of deprivation since 1999. [212982]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the "Community Projects Revenue Fund" is a generic term for a series of funding streams including Sports Action Zones and Priority Area Initiatives, and not a single funding stream for which such information is centrally held. Since 1997 Sport England have funded a number of community initiatives designed to help combat low levels of participation in sport in communities that experience the effects of poverty and deprivation. However, Sport England does not record the award or amount of grants according to whether or not projects fall within areas of deprivation, as defined by Government Indices of Deprivation.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on sports action zones through Sport England's *(a)* Community Projects Capital Fund, *(b)* Community Investment Fund and *(c)* community sports networks in each year since 1999. [212984]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding for the Sport Action Zone (SAZ) programme came through a wide range of sporting and non-sporting funding streams. Figures have been provided for total Sport England funding for SAZs in each year since 1999, but this information is not centrally held according to the categories of Community Projects Capital Fund, Community Investment Fund and Community Sports Networks.

Financial year	*Total Sport England funding for SAZs (£)*
2000-01	2,595,330
2001-02	411,651
2002-03	3,457,311
2003-04	1,097,233
2004-05	187,712
2005-06	272,853
2006-07	2,595,330

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of Sport England's Community Projects Fund was spent on administration in each year since 1999. [212988]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the Community Projects Fund is a generic term for a series of funding streams including Sports Action Zones and Priority Area Initiatives, and not a single funding stream for which such information is centrally held. It is not therefore possible to provide figures for the proportion of Community Projects Fund that was spent on administration in each year since 1999.

However, detailed information on the yearly operating costs of Sport England can be found in their annual reports, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. Annual reports from 2000-01 onwards are also available at the following address:

<http://www.sportengland.org/annualreport.htm>

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Sport England's Community Projects Fund has been spent in areas of deprivation since 1999. [212999]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the "Community Projects Fund" is a generic term for a series of funding streams including Sports Action Zones and Priority Area Initiatives, and not a single funding stream for which such information is centrally held. Since 1997 Sport England have funded a number of community initiatives designed to help combat low levels of participation in sport in communities that experience the effects of poverty and deprivation. However, Sport England do not record the award or amount of grants according to whether or not projects fall within areas of deprivation, as defined by Government Indices of Deprivation.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in (i) Enfield North constituency and (ii) London in each year since 1997. [213803]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Departmental and lottery funding to promote and invest in grassroots and community sport is allocated via Sport England. Sport England has advised that in each year since 1997 funding in Enfield North for *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools was as follows:

		£
Financial year	*Amateur sports clubs*	*Sport in schools*
1997-98	0	0
1998-99	0	0
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	0	784,418
2002-03	0	10,000
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	9,009	0
2005-06	31,436	0
2006-07	552,555	0

However, Sport England have advised that the only way to provide a similar breakdown (amateur clubs and school sports) for the whole of London would be to manually gather the information from the thousands of grants which have been awarded during the period. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sports: Handguns

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the compliance of the UK with the Olympic Charter with regard to pistol practice; and if he will make a statement. [215073]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The "Olympic Charter" is a constitutional document of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and it sets out the governing principles and rules of the IOC. Neither the UK, nor any other country is a signatory or party to it. Its terms bind national Olympic committees and the other parties to the Host City

Contract to organise the games in a manner consistent with the charter. The UK Government have given written guarantees to respect and, where appropriate, abide by the charter in the context of the 2012 games.

Sports: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided to *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [215776]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Departmental and Lottery funding to promote and invest in grassroots and community sport is allocated via Sport England. Sport England has advised that one within the Tamworth constituency was awarded Lottery funding of £403,780 on 17 November 1997. The award was made to Tamworth borough council for the development of the Anker Valley Sports Ground.

In addition, three projects in the Tamworth area have received awards totalling £30,000 for sport projects from the Awards for All scheme. The following table sets out details.

Awards For All

	Awarded to	*Project*	*Amount (£)*
June 2007	Queen Elizabeth's Mercian School	A project to refurbish the school's swimming pool.	10,000
December 2006	Tamworth Olympic Gymnastics Club	A project to buy safety equipment.	10,000
November 2006	Tamworth Amateur Boxing Club	A project to extend the clubs facilities and purchase new equipment.	10,000
Total	—	—	30,000

Television: Advertising

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the regulatory framework is affecting product placements in television broadcasts; and if he will make a statement; [215089]

(2) what his policy is on implementation of European Commission proposals on product placement on UK television; and if he will make a statement. [215090]

Andy Burnham: Product placement has been prohibited in UK commercial broadcasting since it began. It is currently prohibited by section 10.5 of Ofcom's broadcasting code, which gives effect to the present European directive.

Ofcom's code exempts from this prohibition references to products which have been acquired at no cost, or less than their full cost, where their inclusion is justified editorially. It also exempts product placement in cinema films and in programmes acquired from outside the UK, so long as the broadcaster has not directly benefited from the product placement.

However, no undue prominence may be given in a programme to a product or service.

The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive, adopted in December 2007, requires member states to impose an overall ban on product placement in television and video-on-demand services. But it allows member states to permit it, if they wish, in 'cinematographic works, films and series, sports programmes and light, entertainment programmes', subject to certain conditions.

My Department will shortly be consulting on product placement as part of its overall consultation on implementing this directive in the United Kingdom. As I have made clear, my instinctive view is that product placement would reduce public trust in broadcasters. There would be a danger that commercial marketing interests could exert an inappropriate influence over editorial decisions. The line between advertising and programmes, the 'separation principle', could become blurred.

The DCMS consultation will last for at least 12 weeks and will provide the chance for those on both sides of the argument to put forward their views and evidence. At the end of the consultation process, the Government will make a judgement based upon those views and evidence.

The UK and other member states must implement the directive by 19 December 2009.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of UK residents taking *(a)* day trips, *(b)* short breaks and *(c)* holidays in the UK in each year since 1997. [210187]

Margaret Hodge: Regular surveys of day trips by UK residents are not undertaken. However we have data from two surveys completed in the last 10 years. The Leisure Day Visits Survey's estimate for the total number of British adults that had taken a tourism day trip in Great Britain was just under 1.3 billion in 1998 and just under 1.1 billion in 2002-03. People living in England accounted for 87 per cent. (934 million) of those tourism day trips taken in 2002-03.

In 2005, there were an estimated 870 million Tourism Day Visits taken by English residents within England. The 1998 and 2002-03 surveys were funded by a consortium including DCMS. The 2005 survey was led by Natural England but funded collectively by 12 different agencies including DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

The number of domestic short breaks taken in the UK is shown in the following table.

Domestic 'short holiday trips' (one to three nights) in the UK

	Number (million)
1997	37.4
1999	41.3
2001[1]	67.2
2001	63.8
2002	64.5
2003	57.3
2004	46.9

Domestic 'short holiday trips' (one to three nights) in the UK

	Number (million)
2005[1]	56.3
2006	52.1

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in both 2000 and in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution.

Note:

Figures for 1998 are not available.

Source:

UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

The number of domestic holidays taken in the UK is shown in the following table.

Domestic holiday trips in the UK

	Number (million)
1997	70.8
1999	75.3
2000[1]	106.0
2001	101.2
2002	101.7
2003	91.0
2004	75.5
2005[1]	86.6
2006	79.2

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution.

Note:

Figures for 1998 are not available.

Source:

UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to encourage mobile phone operators to share masts through the planning process. [215062]

Mr. Iain Wright: "Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications" outlines the Government's policy of facilitating the growth of new and existing telecommunication systems while keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

Our guidance makes clear that we attach considerable importance to keeping the number of radio and telecommunications masts to the minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network.

The sharing of masts and sites is, therefore, strongly encouraged where that represents the optimum environmental solution to a particular case.

Our guidance should be taken into account by local planning authorities as they prepare their plans for their area, and may be material to decisions on individual applications for planning permission, prior approval or appeals.

Allotments: Waiting Lists

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has had recent discussions with those local authorities which have a waiting list for allotments on their provision of allotments. [214936]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not had recent discussions with local authorities about waiting lists for allotments.

The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area.

Council Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in *(a)* rent and *(b)* service charges for council tenants in each London borough was in each of the last five years for which figures are available, expressed in (i) cash and (ii) percentage terms; and if she will make a statement. [211277]

Mr. Iain Wright: The table has been deposited in the Library of the House showing per week figures for actual rents and service charges which indicate the cash and percentage increases for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 for each London borough. These figures are as reported to Communities and Local Government for those years. Comparable per week service charge figures are not available for the years prior to 2003-04.

Setting service charges is a matter for local authorities themselves. They have been encouraged to identify service charges separately from rents, based on the actual cost of services to individual properties, which helps tenants to assess the reasonableness of the charges. The figures in the table reflect this 'depooling'. Service charges are not eligible for HRA subsidy and as such data are not collected on the pre-audit subsidy forms. Audited data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Eco-towns: Parking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is a maximum number of residential car parking spaces per dwelling allowed in eco-town developments. [214992]

Caroline Flint: We will be setting out our approach on transport and other criteria in the draft planning policy statement on eco-towns which we expect to publish for consultation shortly. The Town and Country Planning Association have also produced a best practice worksheet the transport, which is available to all those taking eco-towns forward, and provides advice and examples of good practice about managing transport within the eco-town, including parking.

Local authorities will also want to take account of PPS 3: Housing which encourages a design-led approach to the provision of car-parking space, to ensure that it is well-integrated with a high quality public realm and streets that are pedestrian, cycle and vehicle friendly.

Eco-towns: Public Participation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the appropriateness of the consultation process for the eco-town programme. [213543]

Caroline Flint: We have received a range of representations during the consultation process and will issue our response to the consultation in due course.

There will be further opportunities for consultation and input as part of the second stage of the consultation process. As well as encouraging bidders to extend their consultation process, we are commissioning exhibition and consultation events about the eco-towns concept, the purpose of eco-towns, and a national programme going forward, including information about potential locations. In addition, we expect to publish in July—for further consultation—a draft Sustainability Appraisal on the locations and a draft planning policy statement which will set out more detail for each location.

Only after this second stage of consultation will we decide which sites have potential and which schemes we will support as they go forward into the local planning process, where they will undergo further testing and consultation.

Floods: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations Essex county council has made to her on the Environment Agency's flood risk assessments and their effect on development in *(a)* Canvey Island and *(b)* Essex. [213914]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 281W. We have received no further representations from Essex county council on the Environment Agency's flood risk assessments and their impact on development in Canvey Island and Essex.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local searches being duplicated by the buyer and seller as a consequence of the introduction of home information packs. [213920]

Caroline Flint: None—given the confidential relationship between solicitors and their clients it is not currently possible to accurately obtain data on this issue.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homeless applications to local authorities in each region in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [215548]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This includes data on the number of decisions on applications for housing assistance taken under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act. No estimate has been made of future homelessness applications.

Data on decisions on applications between 1997-98 and 2007-08 are provided in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 12 June 2008.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net financial contribution in relation to the housing revenue accounts subsidy scheme was in *(a)* nominal, *(b)* real and *(c)* per capita terms (i) for the Royal Borough of Kingston, (ii) for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, (iii) on average for all London boroughs, (iv) for Manchester City Council, (v) for Nottingham City Council and (vi) on average for all local housing authorities in England in each of the last 10 years; and what forecasts she has made for the equivalent figures in the next 10 years. [212391]

Mr. Iain Wright: The housing revenue account subsidy system involves calculations based on a notional housing revenue account. The amount of subsidy for each local authority is calculated as the difference between the expenditure which the local authority is assumed to incur and the income it is assumed to receive. We do not have a suitable basis for deflating the figures to real terms.

Housing revenue account subsidy in its current form has been paid out since 2004-05. Prior to 2004-05, central Government subsidy included rent rebates for housing benefits which are no longer a part of housing revenue account subsidy. The following table shows the subsidy position for Kingston upon Thames, the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Manchester and Nottingham city councils, the average for all London boroughs, and the average for all local authorities in England from 2004-05 to 2007-08. These are un-audited figures provided by the local authorities.

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Kensington and Chelsea	8,280,067	8,941,923	8,743,629	8,011,369
Kingston upon Thames	-3,974,577	-4,212,167	-4,936,952	-5,606,053
Manchester City Council	41,741,062	50,544,980	43,351,412	35,947,850
Nottingham City Council	6,731,470	8,564,023	9,810,385	9,031,153
LB average	24,992,563	23,567,611	21,602,984	18,993,060
England average	5,832,117	7,726,439	7,165,854	6,331,305

Communities and Local Government does not have information on forecasts of housing revenue account subsidy across individual local authorities. The forecast of subsidy in each of the next 10 years would require the projection of dwelling stock totals, and interest rate predictions, to 2018-19. These can be provided only by the individual local authorities.

Housing: Local Government Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on housing: local government finance, if she will place in the Library a copy of the equivalent figures for 2007-08. [213511]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: A table showing the preliminary outturn figures for authorities' housing revenue account subsidy entitlement has been deposited in the Library of the House. The data supplied are subject to audit, which is not due to complete until 31 December 2008.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on housing: local government finance, how much was *(a)* transferred by local housing authorities into the housing revenue account and *(b)* redistributed to local housing authorities by the housing revenue account in the last year for which figures are available. [213512]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 June 2008]*: The total assumed housing revenue account subsidy surpluses for 2007-08 captured for redistribution in England were -£615,402,131. Total assumed deficits for the same period were £670,123,974, requiring an Exchequer contribution of £54,721,843 to make up the shortfall.

These figures are subject to audit.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the data sources are for her Department's house price index. [216012]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department's monthly house price index is a weighted average of prices for a standard mix of dwellings. The dwelling prices data used in the calculation of "weighted" average prices are from mortgage completions data taken from the Regulated Mortgage Survey (RMS), carried out by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and BankSearch.

The index is "mix-adjusted" to allow for the fact that different dwelling types are sold in different periods. The mix-adjusted index is calculated using a model that uses, in addition to the RMS, classification data from the ONS which clusters local authorities together, a neighbourhood classification from CACI Ltd. known as the ACORN classification and transaction data from HM Land Registry.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the repair costs borne by leaseholders as a consequence of the Decent Homes Initiative; and if she will make a statement. [213928]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have received representations on this subject from stakeholders including individual local authority leaseholders and hon. Members. Ministers have also met hon. Members who have expressed particular interest in this subject.

The Government have reviewed the issues arising from high major works charges and announced their conclusions in a written statement to Parliament on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 118WS; on the Parliament website at:

> http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070329/wmstext/70329m0001.htm#07032949000022

This said that the Government would make it clear to local authorities that they should:

> inform and advise all leaseholders who face particularly large bills about the best available payment options, and work with lenders and independent financial advisers, landlords and leaseholder representatives to focus on the best ways of tackling these issues. Meetings on this have subsequently been held with a number of local authority and arms-length management organisation landlords
>
> use existing resources, such as for private sector renewal which they are already expected to target towards those in need and on low incomes, to assist leaseholders in hardship. The Greater London Authority has included help for leaseholders among the criteria for regional housing pot bids from London boroughs.

In addition, more resources have been made available to the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) so that it can encourage more dialogue between landlords and leaseholders on service charge and management issues and also encourage them to use its services to discuss issues, establish available options, and where necessary resolve disputed issues. The Government have also fulfilled their commitment to legislate by including in the Housing and Regeneration Bill, which is currently completing its passage through Parliament, powers for local authorities to offer interest-free equity loans and to buy equity shares in properties.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the average Standard Assessment Procedure rating of *(a)* council housing, *(b)* housing owned by registered social landlords, *(c)* private rented housing and *(d)* owner-occupied housing in (i) Birmingham, (ii) West Midlands and (iii) England. [215024]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides the average energy efficiency ('SAP') rating in the West Midlands and England for each housing tenure, using estimates from the 2006 English House Condition Survey. The survey cannot provide estimates for areas smaller than regions.

Energy efficiency (SAP) rating by housing tenure for West Midlands and England, 2006

Tenure	*West Midlands*	*England*
Owner occupied	44	47
Private rented	44	47
Local authority	54	56
Registered social landlord	59	59
All sectors	47	49

Note:
Estimates based on SAP 2005 methodology for energy efficiency rating.
Source:
English House Condition Survey

Owner Occupation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department holds information on the age profile of home owners. [215064]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on the age profile of owner occupiers are included in a table published on the departmental website. Table S106 contains the age profile of all householders by tenure for each of the years 1999 to 2006 and is derived from the Labour Force Survey, an Office for National Statistics survey. The table can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/139277.xls

Party Wall etc. Act 1996

Mrs. Laít: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Party Wall etc. Act 1996 to increase the efficiency with which its provisions can be enforced. [214149]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no current plans to make legislative amendments to The Party Wall etc. Act 1996. The Department is, however, currently revising The Party Wall etc. Act 1996 Explanatory Booklet to improve the guidance for professionals and building owners in this and other respects.

Property Development: Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were built on green belt land in 2006; and how many hectares of green belt were developed in 2006. [212739]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt. Such development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. In 2006, an estimated 2,800 dwellings were built within the 2007 designated green belt. This is around 1.7 per cent. of the total number of dwellings built in England in 2006.

There were 1,635,000 hectares of green belt in England in 2007. Figures are not yet available for the amount of green belt developed in 2006.

Regional Spatial Strategies: Eco-towns

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether eco-towns will count towards a local authority's building targets as set out in regional spatial strategies. [215061]

Caroline Flint: As we have set out in the consultation document, Eco-towns—Living a greener future, at Annex A, paragraph 6 we are expecting eco-towns to contribute significantly to meet revised targets in the emerging regional spatial strategies and have assured local authorities which include an eco-town in their future housing plans that it will count towards current and future housing targets, which in many cases are likely to be more stretching.

Regional Spatial Strategies: Green Belt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities are being instructed to undertake green belt reviews as a consequence of the provisions of each regional spatial strategy. [213924]

Mr. Iain Wright: No local planning authorities have been instructed to undertake green belt reviews. The Government's policy on green belts is set out in planning policy guidance note 2 (PPG2). Green belts have performed an important role in preventing urban sprawl and protecting the countryside for 50 years. It continues to be a matter for local authorities and regional assemblies to look at how the green belt best protects the countryside and guards against inappropriate development.

Regional Spatial Strategies: West Midlands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the meaning is of the phrase adjustment of green belt boundaries, as referred to in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision. [215092]

Mr. Iain Wright: The reference to adjustment of green belt boundaries is unchanged from the published RSS but the draft phase two revision expands on the circumstances where adjustment might be made. This wording represents the West Midlands regional assembly's proposals which will be subject to an examination in public next spring.

Social Rented Housing: Sales

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been disposed of by registered social landlords in each year since 1999-2000. [214319]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of properties disposed of by RSLs in each year since 1999-2000. The figures are taken from the annual Regulatory Statistical Return showing right to buy (RTB), right to acquire (RTA), Voluntary Purchase Grant (VPG) and later, Social HomeBuy (from 2006) (SHB), disposals to other RSLs, disposals to the private sector (for example property built for outright sale, market rented property, former social housing sold at auction or on the open market) and other disposals (for example local authorities, health authorities and organisations like English Partnerships).

Number of properties disposed of by RSLs since 1999-2000

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
RTB	7,245	7,098	8,224	10,473	14,525	8,665	6,356	4,835
RTA	4	18	38	111	236	435	471	570
VPG and SHB	86	140	133	142	154	132	78	47
To other RSLs	—	—	—	—	—	1,130	2,872	1,635
To private sector	—	—	—	—	—	3,157	3,081	3,257
Other disposals	—	—	—	—	—	2,399	1,207	1,235
Total	7,335	7,256	8,395	10,726	14,915	15,918	14,065	11,579

Notes:

1. Data for disposals to other RSLs, to the private sector and other non-social housing before the years 2004-05 was collected in a different form and is not comparable. Therefore they have been omitted.
2. As part of reducing the regulatory burden RSLs in the size range 250 to 999 units were exempted from the return in 2006-07 with regards to disposals to other RSLs, to the private sector and other non-social housing (previously this threshold was less than 250 units).
3. Some of these units may not have been in social housing use at the time of the disposal.
4. Data for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Temporary Accommodation: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of out-of-borough temporary accommodation placements made by each London local authority in each of the last five years. [214327]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households being housed in various types of temporary accommodation (TA) is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The following table shows the number of households in temporary accommodation by each London borough as at 31 March, and those of which were housed in another local authority district, from 2003-04 to 2007-08:

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	No. in TA	*Of which: in another LA district*	*No. in TA*	*Of which: in another LA district*	*No. in TA*	*Of which: in another LA district*	*No. in TA*	*Of which: in another LA district*	*No. in TA*	*Of which: in another LA district*
Barking and Dagenham	790	20	470	0	560	0	790	0	700	0
Barnet	1,960	250	2,330	190	2,410	80	2,540	100	2,490	170
Bexley	320	120	380	120	420	120	400	100	300	70
Brent	4,210	230	4,450	490	4,310	420	4,120	400	3,910	390
Bromley	720	110	450	[1]—	1,000	60	800	[1]—	720	70
Camden	2,170	760	2,170	120	1,930	670	1,640	570	1,440	530
City of London	30	0	30	30	20	20	30	30	20	20
Croydon	3,550	10	3,350	0	2,620	0	2,080	[1]—	1,790	0
Ealing	2,010	60	2,220	[1]—	2,270	50	2,080	50	1,990	40
Enfield	2,960	50	[1]—	[1]—	3,290	20	3,280	70	3,200	0
Greenwich	380	60	540	120	860	140	650	120	440	120
Hackney	2,270	120	2,480	[1]—	2,310	[1]—	2,010	0	1,900	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,780	490	1,830	460	1,670	540	1,510	420	1,200	670
Haringey	4,770	0	5,310	[1]—	5,700	[1]—	5,860	[1]—	5,390	[1]—
Harrow	1,460	0	1,280	0	1,160	0	1,090	10	1,060	40
Havering	820	0	810	0	[1]—	[1]—	580	0	640	0
Hillingdon	1,870	0	1,880	10	1,650	0	1,480	0	1,360	0
Hounslow	1,130	100	1,230	220	1,300	180	1,230	100	1,120	90

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	No. in TA	Of which in another LA district	No. in TA	Of which in another LA district	No. in TA	Of which in another LA district	No. in TA	Of which in another LA district	No. in TA	Of which in another LA district
Islington	1,440	320	1,550	520	1,520	400	1,240	460	1,010	330
Kensington and Chelsea	970	470	1,200	540	1,120	520	950	[1]—	920	700
Kingston upon Thames	840	70	[1]—	[1]—	770	[1]—	810	[1]—	780	[1]—
Lambeth	1,850	530	2,380	510	2,410	300	2,450	480	2,120	480
Lewisham	1,640	30	1,850	0	2,280	0	2,560	0	2,500	80
Merton	170	10	160	10	140	0	120	0	110	10
Newham	5,160	1,710	5,820	2,200	6,110	2,690	6,040	2,230	5,600	2,120
Redbridge	2,430	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2,760	0	2,770	60	2,740	100
Richmond upon Thames	530	170	460	180	400	40	320	80	280	80
Southwark	930	80	970	40	1,150	80	1,280	70	1,160	70
Sutton	540	40	640	30	550	30	480	20	410	40
Tower Hamlets	2,900	1,380	2,950	750	2,650	520	2,540	520	[1]—	[1]—
Waltham Forest	1,670	110	1,810	170	1,960	190	1,930	160	1,920	280
Wandsworth	1,640	190	1,590	110	1,360	120	1,160	90	940	90
Westminster	2,940	1,310	3,150	1,480	3,110	900	3,010	1,420	2,870	[1]—

[1] Denotes data not reported.

Source:
CLG P1E data

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have been placed in temporary accommodation in each London local authority area by another London local authority in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [214329]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data collected on temporary accommodation include the number of households placed in temporary accommodation by each London local authority at the end of each quarter, and which of these were housed in a different local authority district. However, information on which local authority area these households were housed in is not held centrally.

A table showing the number of households placed in temporary accommodation (TA) by each London local authority as at 31 March, and those of which were housed in another local authority district, has been provided today in answer to my hon. Friend's question (214327).

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Foreign Companies

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of contracts awarded to companies for the 2012 London Olympic Games has been awarded to foreign companies. [215897]

Tessa Jowell: As of May 2008, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded over 650 contracts and 2 per cent. are from international companies.

As a public body, the ODA is fully committed to ensuring competitive tendering for contracts in compliance with UK and EU procurement law.

The ODA's Procurement Policy, launched in March 2007, states it will:

> "Encourage competition, locally, nationally and internationally through actively promoting tendering opportunities, to promote as wide and as vigorous a competition as can be achieved."

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the likely effects of the 2012 Olympics on tourism. [215285]

Tessa Jowell: The DCMS tourism strategy, "Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond" includes the estimate there could be a £2.1 billion boost in tourism revenues as a result of the 2012 games. This is the central estimate of the additional revenues for the UK arising from the games, and is taken from a study commissioned jointly by VisitBritain and Visit London.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of her Office in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215551]

Helen Goodman: No domestic air flights were undertaken during the financial year 2007-08 (the most recent year for which figures are available).

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Office in each of the last 10 years. [215241]

Ms Harman: This information is available only at disproportionate cost, due to a machinery of government change.

Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House. Like all civil servants, special advisers are entitled to claim expenses.

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her Office on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215220]

Ms Harman: Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

My Office spent £14,849.18 on subscriptions and publications including newspapers in 2006-07. However, the number of newspapers and subscriptions are kept under constant review to ensure value for money including the non-delivery of newspapers and magazines during a recess or when a Minister is not in the office.

Details of any payments in 2007-08 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in her Office in the last 24 months. [215604]

Helen Goodman: From June 2006 to present, one departmental pass has been reported lost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels her Office subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215645]

Helen Goodman: This service is provided centrally to the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons by the Cabinet Office. The total cost for the whole of the Cabinet Office in the 2007-08 financial year was £5,589.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how long on average her Office took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215473]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is as follows:

	Named day questions answered on the specified day		*Ordinary written questions answered within five working days*		
Session	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Average number of sitting days to answer ordinary written questions*
2004-05	100	14 of 14	97	38 of 39	2.9
2005-06	100	72 of 72	100	189 of 189	2.8
2006-07	100	40 of 40	99	163 of 165	2.7
Current Session	100	26 of 26	98	122 of 124	3

This information is available on our website at:

www.commonsleader.gov.uk

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office *(a)* are classified as Government communicators and *(b)* have access to the Government Communication Network. [215117]

Ms Harman: Press Office services are provided by the Cabinet Office Communication Group.

Any civil servant who works in a communication role can register online as an individual to gain access to GCN and the resources it provides through its website.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of the National Audit Office in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215563]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office informs me that in 2007-08 National Audit Office staff made 165 return and 85 single air trips on official business within Great Britain, making a total of 415 individual domestic flights. 411 were economy flights, which are selected unless a more flexible option is required for business purposes, and the total cost of all domestic flights was £30,452.

National Audit Office: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many permanent staff within the National Audit Office are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215580]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office informs me that there are currently no employees within the National Audit Office who are classed as "staff without posts", and there are no staff in a "people action team".

National Audit Office: *Morning Star*

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication the National Audit Office subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215669]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office informs me that it does not subscribe to the *Morning Star*.

National Audit Office: Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff of the National Audit Office in the last 24 months. [215613]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office informs me that over the period 28 June 2006 to 27 June 2008, 62 National Audit Office passes have been reported as lost or stolen. Pass holders are required to report losses to the police and passes are deactivated immediately on receipt of a police report.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the adoption of different measures to manage *(a)* biosecurity and *(b)* biosafety threats. [214222]

Jonathan Shaw: The terms biosecurity and biosafety are used differently in different contexts. Farmers are responsible for practising high standards of biosecurity on their premises in order to reduce the risk of disease being introduced on the premises. DEFRA has published biosecurity guidance for farmers on the DEFRA website.

Using the definitions in the recent Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee Report on Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories (published 25 June 2008), laboratory biosafety (containment practices to prevent the unintentional exposure or release of pathogens) is the responsibility of the individual facilities and their management as the Callaghan Review of the regulatory framework for handling animal pathogens (published 13 December 2007) made clear. Following the publication of the Callaghan review, responsibility for inspection and enforcement under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order has been transferred from DEFRA to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Biosecurity (protection and control to prevent unauthorised access) policy and advice are provided to laboratories by the HSE and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance the Common Agricultural Policy provides for production of *(a)* biofuels and *(b)* tobacco; and if he will estimate the hectarage given over to each crop in the EU in the latest year for which figures are available. [213934]

Jonathan Shaw: Crops for biofuels may be grown on set-aside land without loss of set-aside payments. Growers may also apply for the EU's Aid for Energy Crops (AEC) scheme for crops planted on non-set-aside land where there is already a contract with an energy end-user. This pays up to €45 per hectare for two million hectares of crops across the whole EU, but is subject to scale back when the number of acres exceeds this limit—as, for example, happened in 2007. We understand that this scheme may be abolished as part of the common agricultural policy (CAP) health check.

It is not possible to estimate accurately the number of hectares given over to crops for biofuels because the AEC can be paid for all energy crops, not just those destined for biofuels, but biomass for heat and electricity as well. Many farmers also choose to sell multi-use crops such as oilseed rape (OSR) on the spot market, where they could equally be used for biofuels or food products for humans or animals. However, the following figures are available on the European Commission's website:

EU arable land with energy crops, by type of support

Million hectares

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*[2]
Total non-food land use on set-aside area	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0
Oilseeds		0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8
Of which: rapeseed		0.4	0.7	0.8	0.8
Cereals		0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total land use on land with energy crop premium		0.3	0.6	1.3	2.8
Oilseeds		0.2	0.4	0.9	2.0
Of which: rapeseed		0.2	0.4	0.8	2.0
Cereals		0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
Total land use on land without support[3]	0.3	0.8	1.6	1.4	0.2
Oilseeds (rapeseed)[4]		0.8	1.3	0.9	0.1
Cereals			0.3	0.4	0.0
Total	1.2	1.6	3.1	3.7	4.0

[1] EU-25

[2] EU-27, estimate

[3] Calculated from oilseed and cereals market balances

[4] Assumed all rapeseed

Sources:

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

In 2007 the CAP provided €335.5 million worth of assistance for tobacco production.

The latest estimates of hectares given over to tobacco production, based on 27 member states' estimated contracts for 2007, is 114,437 hectares.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much European Union state aid was provided to tobacco producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [214155]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not have information on EU member state payments that might be classified as state aid in the tobacco sector. No such payments have been made in the UK, and it is unlikely that state aid is paid elsewhere.

A production aid, rather than state aid, is however still payable to EU tobacco producers until 2010 when payments linked to production are scheduled to cease altogether. Payments of this aid in 2007 totalled €335.5 million.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that payment under the replacement scheme for hill farm allowance are *(a)* made to and *(b)* retained by those who farm the land in question. [214419]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* As announced in the Secretary of State's written statement on 12 December 2006, we are minded to replace the hill farm allowance (HFA) with an uplands strand to the entry level stewardship scheme. Like other environmental stewardship schemes, payments would be targeted at land managers for the delivery of environmental and landscape benefits. This would require a five-year commitment from the person who has management control of the land, in order to meet EU requirements and to achieve sustainable land management and value for money.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that payment under the replacement scheme for hill farm allowance made in respect of the use of common land are paid only to those who farm that common land. [214420]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* As announced in the Secretary of State's written statement on 12 December 2006, we are minded to replace the hill farm allowance (HFA) with an uplands strand to the entry level stewardship scheme. The replacement scheme would need to ensure sound environmental management of common land. We expect that this would be achieved by requiring agreements applying to common land to cover the whole area of the common and to have the support of the large majority of rights-holders. The commons council or association would be responsible for the agreement and would be responsible for compliance. They would also decide how the payments should be distributed. Guidance would be provided to help commons enter into agreements and to advise on the distribution of funds.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the continuance of subsidies for European tobacco crops. [214614]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* Agreement was reached at the Council of Ministers in April 2004 for the successful reform of the EU tobacco regime.

The reform introduced decoupling into the tobacco sector, which means that the direct link between production and support is broken. This will apply progressively until 2010 when direct support for tobacco production will cease altogether.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the management of which *(a)* endemic and *(b)* exotic animal disease threats his Department has developed a specific strategy. [214223]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government strategy for enhancing veterinary surveillance was launched in 2003. As part of this, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, through its national network, investigates, diagnoses, analyses and reports on trends in endemic diseases of farmed animals and wildlife as well as new and emerging conditions.

In accordance with EU legislation, a process is in place for sequential implementation of UK national salmonella control plans in the poultry and pig sectors.

The 'Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in Great Britain' was published in 2005. Through this, the Government aim to work in partnership with interested organisations to bring about a sustainable improvement in control of bovine TB over the next 10 years.

DEFRA's framework response plan and overview of emergency preparedness, which are reviewed annually, summarise the Government's arrangements for controlling outbreaks of various exotic animal diseases in England. They include an overarching strategy for dealing with a range of diseases, as well as plans for responding to specific diseases including foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, rabies and bluetongue.

There is a need to prioritise contingency planning work according to risk, and contingency arrangements are published on the DEFRA website, along with detailed information about a wide range of animal diseases.

Animals: Electronic Tagging

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he was first informed that wing tagging and web tagging procedures may only be carried out by veterinary surgeons; and if he will make a statement; [214235]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on conservation programmes of veterinary surgeons being the only persons able to carry out wing tagging and web tagging procedures; and if he will make a statement; [214236]

(3) if he will lay an Order before Parliament under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 to permit trained persons who are not veterinary surgeons to carry out wing tagging and web tagging; and if he will make a statement. [214588]

Jonathan Shaw: During the consultation on the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, officials came to the view that, according to the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, wing and web tagging of non-farmed birds could only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. The Department has not collected any data on the impact of this legal situation on conservation programmes.

It is the opinion of the Department that non-vets should be permitted to wing and web tag non-farmed birds for certain purposes. We had initially intended to provide for this in the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. However, it was decided that there would be insufficient legal certainty without a specific Exemption Order under the Veterinary Surgeons Act. Therefore, we are currently working on an Exemption Order to permit non-veterinarians to wing and web tag non-farmed birds. There is already an exemption in the Veterinary Surgeons Act which allows farmed birds to be wing tagged by the farmer or the farmer's employee. It is hoped that this Exemption Order will be in force by November 2008.

Beekeeping: Compensation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will compensate beekeepers who lose their livelihoods as a result of declining bee populations. [214029]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA already provides support to beekeepers by spending £1,300,000 on bee health in England. A further £90,000 of additional funds has been allocated to the National Bee Unit this year to expand investigations into colony losses. DEFRA has no plans to compensate beekeepers for declining bee populations.

Bees: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the German government on its decision to ban a number of seed treatments suspected to have caused the deaths of beehives; and if he will make a statement. [214492]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W.

Further detailed discussions between Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) officials and the German authorities have taken place recently. The German authorities gave an update on their situation and confirmed that they had re-instated the approvals of four products for use as seed treatments for oilseed rape. Meanwhile the authorisations for use of four products for use on maize seed remain suspended.

Investigations by the German authorities have indicated that the cause of the bee deaths was as a result of a combination of factors: poor maize seed treatment without the use of an appropriate sticker to hold the pesticide on the seed; the use of the high dose (62 g active substance per 50,000 seeds) for control of western corn rootworm in a period of high infestation; the use of poorly maintained pneumatic seed drills which allowed the release of dust laden with the pesticide; and the timing of drilling which coincided with the flowering period of neighbouring oilseed rape crops. The authorities are continuing their investigations to re-assess the four products and if appropriate to modify the corresponding authorisations.

Officials at PSD and the Central Science Laboratory are closely monitoring the situation in the UK and will of course act immediately should there be confirmed evidence of a problem in bee colonies in the UK.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what reports he has received on seed treatment products in use in the UK which are suspected to have a negative impact on bee health; and if he will make a statement; [214493]

(2) what consideration he has given to prohibiting the use of seed treatment products linked to beehive deaths; and if he will make a statement. [214494]

Jonathan Shaw: As a means of post-approval monitoring of any harm caused by pesticides, the UK Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) investigates incidents of death or damage to pets and wildlife (including honey and bumble bees) where there is evidence of an association with pesticide use. Data from the WIIS actually show a reduction in recent years in the number of bee incidents directly attributable to the use of pesticides. The few that are reported tend to be linked to the misuse or abuse of certain pesticides rather than their approved use and these cases can result in enforcement action. Since May 2008, there have been four cases (two which are related) involving bees reported to the WIIS, and these are under investigation. There have not been any incidents reported to date which could be connected to the use of seed treatments. DEFRA will, of course, act immediately on any concrete evidence from incidents which occur in the UK.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many imported cattle developed bluetongue disease in each of the last three years. [212796]

Jonathan Shaw: There are strict, risk based rules for intra-community trade in bluetongue susceptible animals. In addition we routinely test ruminants imported from continental Europe, and we traced and tested animals imported during the risk period in 2006 when BTV8 was present but undetected.

As a result we found the following numbers of cattle with test results suggesting the presence of BTV8 virus:

	Number
2006	0
2007	22
2008	[1]5

[1] To date.

None of them were reported as showing clinical signs of disease but undetected infection is common in cattle. All animals believed to present a risk were culled and there is no evidence of spread of disease from any of these incidents.

Bluetongue: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to extend the bluetongue protection zone to Cumbria. [214401]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cattle herd tuberculosis breakdowns accounted for by cattle-to-cattle transmission. [214321]

Jonathan Shaw: It is often very difficult to conclusively determine the precise cause of a TB breakdown in a cattle herd.

However, in low bovine TB incidence areas, there is evidence that cattle-to-cattle transmission could be responsible for around 80 per cent. or more of cases. However, the situation is quite different in the high incidence areas of the country where 85-90 per cent. of all confirmed breakdowns occur. Some herds in these areas are also infected by purchased cattle, but wildlife is a major source of new herd infection and in many counties wildlife may be a more important source than cattle. It is impossible to put precise figures on these possible sources.

Cattle: Exports

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Notice of Registrations (CPP35) the British Cattle Movement Service has issued in relation to the number of passports; what the main reasons are for which they have been issued; and if he will make a statement. [214496]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* Cattle that cannot be properly identified are issued with a Notice of Registration (CPP35) and those that can are issued with cattle passports.

The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) has issued 6,858,466 cattle passports and 44,242 Notice of Registrations in the period 1 January 2006 to 31 May 2008. A proportion of these Notice of Registrations animals may have since been issued with a passport on appeal.

BCMS will issue a Notice of Registration when an application for a cattle passport arrives late, which is more than 27 days after the birth of the animal. In the last 12 months, around 0.08 per cent. of applications result in an appeal. 78 per cent. of these were successful and a passport was issued. In addition, a Notice of Registration is issued if an unidentified animal is found during an inspection.

Animals with a Notice of Registration may be kept by the keeper on the holding on which they are found provided that the keeper tags them, keeps a record in the herd register and that they are registered on the cattle tracing system computer database. The notice explains the animal cannot be traded or go for human consumption and may only leave the holding alive under licence from BCMS to a disposal centre.

Coastal Areas: Access

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations he has received *(a)* in support of and *(b)* against the coastal access provisions contained in the Draft Marine Bill. [215280]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* I understand that so far 3,879 responses have been received to the public consultation on the draft Marine Bill which closed on 26 June. We also received about 11,000 postcards from members of the Ramblers' Association supporting the inclusion of coastal access provisions in the draft Bill. We will publish a summary of the responses to the consultation within 12 weeks of the consultation closing.

Commission for Rural Communities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to relocate the Commission for Rural Communities; and if he will make a statement. [214808]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* I wrote to inform the hon. Member on 3 March 2008 that the Commission for Rural Communities' headquarters will remain in Cheltenham for the present time. However, my officials and the Commission's management team are looking at options which would provide the Commission with accessible, sustainable and affordable accommodation in the future, including remaining in their current building.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213267]

Jonathan Shaw: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

A list of DEFRA's current NDPB's, including advisory bodies, can be found on our website:

http://defra/corporate/delivery/landscape/bodies/index.htm

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212526]

Jonathan Shaw: All grades of staff at DEFRA can apply to work flexibly, including working from home. However this is not an entitlement and should be done according to the business needs and with the line manager's approval. Since requests to work from home are submitted on an informal basis, we do not monitor applications at the moment and therefore cannot provide a figure for the number of employees working from home.

The current policy says:

> "Home working is not an automatic entitlement. Requests will be considered by line managers and although they may be agreed with the employee, the continuation of a home working agreement is dependant on regular review and is at the discretion of the line manager".

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213399]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's 2004 Spending Review target for relocating posts away from London and the South East by March 2010 is 390. By the end of December 2007, we had relocated 337 posts. Our latest forecast is that we will relocate a total of 1,035 posts by March 2010. This increase is largely due to the inclusion of DEFRA-sponsored Levy Bodies, which account for an increase of some 500 posts.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211862]

Jonathan Shaw: The total cost of sick pay for staff in DEFRA for the last four financial years is given in the following table. Data prior to April 2004 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year (April to March each year)	£ *Total cost of sick pay*
2007-08	3,569,351
2006-07	4,146,313
2005-06	4,894,761
2004-05	3,524,208

The data cover all staff in core-DEFRA and those executive agencies covered by the core Department's terms and conditions (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (who merged with the HSE on 1 April 2008)).

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215468]

Jonathan Shaw: Our database records information by parliamentary Sessions, and it is not maintained in such a way to enable the Department to extract the information requested without incurring disproportionate costs.

However, we can provide information on the percentage of questions answered within the deadlines.

Parliamentary Session	*Total named day questions tabled*	*Number answered on time*	*Percentage answered on time*
2004-05	269	82	30
2005-06	934	315	33.7
2006-07	791	385	48.7

Parliamentary Session	*Total written questions tabled*	*Number answered on time*	*Percentage answered on time*
2004-05	1,338	648	48.4
2005-06	4,882	2,892	59.2
2006-07	3,045	1,973	64.8

My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members receive a substantive response to their parliamentary questions on the due day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department will have responsibility for monitoring voluntary breeding schemes which are not supported by the Kennel Club; [215719]

(2) what role his Department will play in monitoring the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeders Scheme; [215720]

(3) what recent progress has been made in discussions with the Kennel Club on pedigree dog breeding and inherited health conditions; [215739]

(4) whether the Government plan to sign the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals. [215832]

Jonathan Shaw: We are unaware of any voluntary breeding schemes that are not supported by the Kennel Club.

We will wish to evaluate the success of the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeders Scheme when considering the need for any new legislation covering the breeding of dogs.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 273-74W.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition he uses of dog code, as used in his Department's guidance on the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [215741]

Jonathan Shaw: The Dog Code will, in common with all other codes of practice made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, give practical guidance to owners and others responsible for dogs on provisions made by or under the Act.

Energy: Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the percentage change in domestic energy efficiency in each English local authority since 1999-2000; and if he will set out performance figures for each authority against their domestic energy reduction target. [215588]

Mr. Woolas: The Government hold data on overall improvements in energy efficiency reported by energy conservation authorities in England for the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2007. The data on overall progress provided by authorities each year are placed in the Library of both Houses of Parliament and are published on the DEFRA web site.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response his Department has made to the National Audit Office report on the state of flood defences; and what recent work the Environment Agency has undertaken to implement the report's recommendations. [210426]

Mr. Woolas: The National Audit Office (NAO) report published on 15 June 2007 draws on information which is now over two years old. The Environment Agency has made substantial progress prior to and since the NAO report was published.

Since February the Environment Agency has made more progress against both the Public Account's Committee Actions and the NAO's recommendations. The Environment Agency's Annual Report and Accounts will be laid in Parliament before the summer recess and will demonstrate progress across all its flood risk management activities including some of those covered by the NAO report.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural (1) Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact of flooding where the Rivers Vyrnwy and Severn meet in the Llandrinio area; and if he will make a statement; [214084]

(2) what assessment he has made of the Environmental Agency's proposals to allow more flooding in the Llandrinio area as a flood mitigation measure for those living down stream; and if he will make a statement. [214085]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is conducting an assessment of the benefits and constraints in delivering future flood risk management activities along the River Severn under a catchment flood management plan (CFMP).

The town of Llandrinio is located on the Severn and Vyrnwy Confluence. The assessment has identified a potential option of flood storage to deliver flood risk management benefits.

Further detailed studies will be undertaken in due course for the Severn and Vyrnwy Confluence, as a result of the CFMP highlighting the possibility of delivering wider benefits via water storage. Work will only be carried out on the ground when further detailed studies have taken place in consultation with the local stakeholders, community and key landowners.

Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Environment Agency to publish its temporary flood defence policy; and if he will make a statement. [211903]

Mr. Woolas: Following the summer 2007 floods, the Environment Agency has undertaken a strategic review of the use of temporary defences generally and their specific use at Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire.

The recommendations of the review are that the Agency should in future stop using temporary defences as an alternative to permanent defences; where local commitments already exist, the Agency should continue to use temporary defences, working with other partners to share the responsibility, and that they should not provide temporary defences as a strategic service.

These recommendations have been incorporated into the Environment Agency's policy, which is being finalised and is currently going through the formal approvals process for publication in July 2008.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [208139]

(2) how much food waste in tonnes his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [212918]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not keep separate records of food waste generated. However, food waste that was generated and composted by the Department over the last three years is as follows:

	Weight of composted waste (tonnes)
2006-07	19.02
2005-06	37.57
2004-05	0.39

The Sustainable Development Commission have yet to verify government data for 2007-08, therefore we are unable to provide this information.

Prior to 2004-05 DEFRA did not record composted waste separately.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the Warm Front Scheme and the performance of eaga, with particular reference to the value for money of their pricing structures. [216217]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 168W.

I can also assure him that all pricing processes were overseen by DEFRA's independent quality assessors, White Young and Green, to ensure the prices charged by the scheme are fair and reflect the market rate. These quality assessors have since undertaken reviews of Warm Front pricing which demonstrate that Warm Front charges continue to offer value for money.

Litter: Tobacco

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to make cigarette manufacturers responsible for the costs of removing cigarette butts from public places. [214324]

Jonathan Shaw: Local authorities have a duty under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep land clear of all forms of litter and refuse. Decisions on taxation are for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the benefits of constituting the proposed Marine Management Organisation as *(a)* a non-departmental public body and *(b)* an executive agency. [212009]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill consultation in 2006 set out the status options which were considered for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), including Executive agency. Careful consideration was given to the most appropriate status for the MMO, and responses to that consultation were taken into account.

Non-departmental public body (NDPB) status was indicated by the Cabinet Office as the most appropriate given the functions that the new body is designed to deliver, together with the fact that those services will be delivered by the MMO on behalf of the Government and not just on behalf of DEFRA. This includes the role the MMO is intended to take on under the new marine planning regime set up under part two of the draft Marine Bill (which excludes policy making and adoption of marine plans). NDPB status will inspire confidence in other Government Departments and marine stakeholders that the MMO will act in an independent impartial manner.

Creating the MMO as an Executive agency of DEFRA would not give confidence to other Government Departments or stakeholders that the body had the necessary independence from individual Ministers/policy areas to effectively carry out marine planning and licensing functions.

Migrant Workers: Conditions of Employment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the regulatory impact of extending the requirement for licensing under the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004 to sectors which are exempt. [214408]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: There has been no assessment of the regulatory impact of extending the requirement for licensing under the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004 to non-regulated sectors, and the Government have no current plans to extend the scope of the Act.

Noise: Roads

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to publish noise maps for major roads in England; and which roads in Milton Keynes will be mapped. [214946]

Jonathan Shaw: The interactive noise mapping website which shows major roads within urban areas was published on 16 May 2008 on the DEFRA website.

Information on major roads mapped outside urban areas are also available on the DEFRA website.

Pollution: Monitoring

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which pollution monitoring projects were funded by his Department in 2007; and how much funding was provided in each case. [215265]

Jonathan Shaw: The Air Quality Grant runs by financial year. Details on the local authorities awarded a grant for monitoring purposes in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out in the following tables.

Air quality grant scheme 2006-07

Local authority	*Award*
Adur District Council	25,000.00
Barnsley MBC	30,000.00
moved from Emission Inventory	10,000.00
Bedford Borough Council	28,000.00
Blaby District Council	15,000.00
Boston Borough Council	10,178.00
Bristol City Council	11,000.00
Broxbourne Borough Council	10,000.00
Calderdale MBC	9,072.00
Cannock Chase Council	8,000.00
Colchester	13,500.00
Chichester DC	17,337.00
Congleton Borough Council	12,000.00

Air quality grant scheme 2006-07

Local authority	*Award*
Coventry City Council	27,000.00
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	17,000.00
Derby City Council	10,000.00
Doncaster MBC	13,000.00
Dover District Council	11,666.00
Eastleigh Borough Council	11,489.00
Elmbridge Borough Council	17,000.00
Erewash	10,000.00
Fareham Borough Council	14,000.00
Fenland DC	3,390.00
Halton Borough Council	20,000.00
Kingston-upon-Hull City Council	60,795.00
Kirklees MBC	25,000.00
Leeds City Council	7,000.00
Leeds City Council	4,000.00
Leicester City Council	8,750.00
Liverpool City Council	90,000.00
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	10,000.00
Mid Devon District Council	15,000.00
North West Leicestershire District Council	10,000.00
Nuneaton and Bedworth District Council	19,500.00
Oxford City Council	5,000.00
Plymouth City Council	25,000.00
Portsmouth City Council	25,000.00
Reading BC	30,000.00
Rotherham MBC	10,000.00
Rugby Borough Council	25,000.00
Salford City Council	25,295.00
Sefton MBC	20,000.00
Sheffield City Council	10,000.00
Slough Borough Council	8,000.00
South Buckinghamshire District Council	10,530.00
South Shropshire District Council	2,500.00
South Tyneside MBC	15,000.00
St. Albans City and District Council	15,000.00
Suffolk Coastal District Council	30,000.00
Suffolk County Council	15,000.00
Taunton Deane BC	1,700.00
Teignbridge District Council	20,000.00
Tewkesbury District Council	10,000.00
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	10,000.00
Wakefield MDC	10,000.00
Wycombe District Council	15,000.00
York City Council	10,000.00
London borough	
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	25,000.00
London Borough of Bexley	3,000.00
London Borough of Brent	14,000.00
London Borough of Croydon	2,494.00
London Borough of Ealing	53,000.00
London Borough of Greenwich	51,000.00
London Borough of Harrow	600.00
London Borough of Hillingdon	10,000.00
London Borough of Hounslow	15,000.00
London Borough of Redbridge	19,500.00
London Borough of Southwark	25,000.00
London Borough of Sutton	10,000.00
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	20,000.00
London Borough of Wandsworth	30,000.00
Total	1,230,296.00

Air quality grant scheme 2007-08

Local authority	*Award*
Adur District Council	10,000.00
Aylsbury Vale	12,094.00
Bath and NE Somerset	11,080.00
Blaby District Council	12,000.00
Boston Borough Council	10,338.00
Bristol City Council	26,500.00
Bromsgrove	12,000.00
Broxtowe BC	22,000.00
Burnley Council	27,995.00
Calderdale MBC	7,222.00
Cannock Chase Council	9,080.00
Canterbury City Council	14,000.00
Chiltern District Council	12,100.00
Derby	16,000.00
Eastbourne	7,500.00
East Staffordshire BC	23,161.00
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	15,000.00
Fareham Borough Council	25,500.00
Great Yarmouth	18,000.00
Halton Borough Council	30,000.00
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	30,000.00
Leeds City Council	11,000.00
Leicester City Council	9,000.00
Lewes District Council	6,600.00
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	14,000.00
Middlesbrough	36,000.00
Mid Devon District Council	7,000.00
New Forest 1	8,000.00
New Forest 2	7,000.00
North East Lincolnshire	7,000.00
North Lincolnshire Council	7,262.00
North Lincolnshire Council	3,000.00
Oxford City Council	8,460.00
Portsmouth City Council	22,259.00
Reading BC	30,000.00
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	18,000.00
Salford City Council	13,000.00
Sefton MBC	16,300.00
Sheffield City Council	10,000.00
Shrewsbury and Atcham BC	25,000.00
Slough Borough Council	18,000.00
Southampton	3,000.00
South Buckinghamshire District Council	13,555.00
South Cambridgeshire DC	27,000.00
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	36,250.00
Surrey Heath Borough Council	13,000.00
Taunton Deane BC	3,296.00
Tewkesbury District Council	11,638.00
Wakefield MDC	20,000.00
Waverley	20,876.00
West Dorset	15,000.00
West Oxfordshire	7,500.00
York City Council	30,000.00
London borough	
Barnet 1	17,445.00
Bexley 1	26,000.00
Brent 1	17,500.00
Croydon	2,435.00
Ealing 1	34,000.00
Enfield (two years) (five years £51,000)	17,512.00

Air quality grant scheme 2007-08

Local authority	*Award*
Greenwich 1	41,000.00
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,000.00
Harrow	9,000.00
Havering	6,500.00
Hillingdon	17,800.00
Hounslow	20,000.00
Kensington and Chelsea	20,000.00
Lambeth	20,000.00
Lambeth	5,500.00
Merton	2,000.00
Redbridge	25,000.00
Southwark	15,000.00
Tower Hamlets	25,000.00
Wandsworth 1	35,000.00
Westminster	17,000.00
Total	1,212,258.00

Warehouse Parties

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Forestry Commission on illegal raves. [215345]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* DEFRA has not issued any guidance to local authorities or the Forestry Commission regarding illegal raves.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many residents of *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England applied for grants under the Warm Front Scheme in each year since 2000; and how many of each were successful in each such year. [214938]

Mr. Woolas: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people resident in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England were offered a grant under the Warm Front Scheme which was of a sum less than that required to meet the cost of works in each year since 2000. [214941]

Mr. Woolas: Client contributions were introduced to the Warm Front Scheme in June 2005. The following table illustrates, over the period 1 June 2005 to 31 March 2008, the number of households receiving at least one measure from the Warm Front Scheme, and the number of referrals where a contribution was requested from the householder.

Local authority description	*Total households assisted*	*Referrals requiring contributions*
St. Ives Constituency	1,378	423
Cornwall Contributions (LA Boundaries)	6,990	2,050
England	583,727	115,802

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the grant limits for the Warm Front scheme will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [215748]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 860W.

Whales: Japan

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 424-25W, on Japan, whether the Prime Minister presented Prime Minister Fukuda with the Government publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility"; and if he will make a statement. [214586]

Jonathan Shaw: For reasons given in my reply of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1296W, and of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1874W, I do not think it appropriate to provide the information sought by the hon. Member.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213731]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on how much timber and timber products were procured by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA is committed to procuring legal and sustainable timber and leads on the timber procurement policy for central Government, which requires central Departments to actively seek to procure legal and sustainable timber. From April 2009, there will be a step change in policy and Departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative. DEFRA also funds a Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) to provide advice and guidance to all public sector buyers and suppliers, helping Departments meet the policy requirements.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213732]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on how much timber and timber products originated from independently verified legal and sustainable sources in each of the last five years could be provided only by Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA has not procured any FLEGT licensed timber in the last five years as there is currently no FLEGT licensed timber on the market. The UK is working closely with the European Commission to support the negotiation of Voluntary Partnership Agreements with timber-producing countries, and the development of Legality Assurance Systems for the verification of legality of timber exports to the EU.

DEFRA is committed to procuring legal and sustainable timber and leads on the timber procurement policy for central Government, which requires central Departments to actively seek to procure legal and sustainable timber. From April 2009, there will be a step change in policy and Departments will be required to procure legal and sustainable timber or timber licensed under the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to issue Women's Land Army Award badges to applicants. [214424]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The Women's Land Army badges will be issued to all applicants towards the end of July. We shall shortly be writing to all hon. and right hon. Members informing them of the arrangements in connection with this.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received since January 2008 from hon. and right hon. Members wishing to extend the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [214057]

Mr. Woodward: Since January 2008, I have received two letters from hon. Members writing on behalf of constituents who wished to see the Abortion Act 1967 extended to Northern Ireland. Additionally, I have received requests for meetings from two hon. Members to discuss the matter.

The Government position remains the same. We have no plans to amend the law on abortion to include Northern Ireland. We also continue to believe the best forum for discussion of this issue is the Northern Ireland Assembly.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Food: Health Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to increase school pupils' awareness of the principles of healthy eating during school time. [215522]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have a range of programmes to make pupils aware of healthy eating. These include the food-based nutritional standards introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food.

Schools can also achieve National Healthy Schools Status which requires them to satisfy 41 criteria under four core themes which include a Healthy Eating theme. Under this theme, a healthy school would have developed a food policy which ensures that lunches, breakfast club, tuck shop, vending machine and after-school food service (where available in school) meets or exceeds current DCSF school food standards.

Government also announced on 23 January 2008, as part of their obesity strategy, that every young person will have to do compulsory cooking lessons. Food technology will be compulsory at key stage 3 for every 11 to 14-year-old from September 2011, with food technology lessons involving practical cooking lessons and classes on diet, nutrition and hygiene.

The new key stage 3 Design and Technology programme of study to be introduced from September 2008 will include healthy eating models relating to a balanced diet, and will deliberately focus on practical cooking skills and knowledge.

We continue to fund the Licence to Cook programme which aims to support schools to teach pupils how to cook a range of simple nutritious dishes from basic ingredients, and fund the Food in Schools programme. This involves secondary school teachers training primary school teachers to teach effective practical food lessons and support them in working towards the healthy eating strand of the National Healthy Schools Standard.

Pre-school Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Tamworth constituency took up free nursery places in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215809]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Tamworth parliamentary constituency area. Data are provided for 2007 only because parliamentary constituency data are not yet available for 2008.

Table 1. Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] filled by three and four-year-olds Tamworth parliamentary constituency area

Position at January 2007

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[4]	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[5]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[6]	*Total four-year-olds*
2007	310	650	950	760	190	950

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information for 2008 about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for Staffordshire local authority area.

Table 2. Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] filled by three and four-year-olds Staffordshire local authority

Position at January 2008

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total four-year-olds*
2008	2,900	[5]4,700	7,600	7,000	[6]1,600	8,500

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

School Meals: Organic Food

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to promote the use of organic produce in school meals. [215521]

Kevin Brennan: It is for schools and local authorities to decide whether or not to include organic produce in the school meals that they provide. However, the School Food Trust, in partnership with DCSF, DEFRA and the North East Centre of Excellence has recently produced a booklet, "A Fresh Look at School Food Procurement, Efficiency and Sustainability", which includes information about how providers of school food can improve the perception of their service through the use of certified, assured and seasonal produce.

Schools: Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage schools to gain Fair Trade status. [215520]

Kevin Brennan: Fair Trade issues are important to schools and young people, therefore our National Framework for Sustainable Schools includes "doorways" on food and drink and the global dimension. We expect all schools to be sustainable schools by 2020, showing strong commitment to the environment and social responsibility, both locally and globally.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is raising awareness of Fair Trade issues through its Global Gateway website (www.globalgateway.org) where there is information on voluntary organisations such as Oxfam who are trying to make trade fairer. They are also opportunities for schools and young people to get involved in Fair Trade; for example, young people could become Fair Trade Young Co-operatives coordinators.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214678]

Phil Hope: The net book values of the Department's tangible and intangible assets are published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2006-07, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. The 2007-08 Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts are expected to be published before the summer 2008 recess.

At 31 March 2007 the net book value of the Department's information technology assets was £9.7 million. The cost of the assets at the time of purchase was £23.5 million.

Departmental Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on away days located outside his Department's buildings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [215784]

Phil Hope: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system how much the Cabinet Office spent on away days located outside the Department's buildings. This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and other HM Treasury guidance.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214658]

Edward Miliband: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215912]

Phil Hope: The Department is on track to meet the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) target for Departments to reduce waste arising by 5 per cent. by 2010, relative to 2004-05 levels. This has been done primarily by providing appropriate recycling facilities to ensure that the highest possible levels of recycling are achieved and encouraging staff to generate less waste, and consequently reduce the amount of landfill generated.

Government Departments: Car Allowances

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department provides to Government Departments on levels of reimbursement of car mileage undertaken on Government business. [215418]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office does not provide central rules regarding the levels of reimbursement of car mileage undertaken on Government business. Departments and agencies have delegated authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by their own staff in connection with their employment subject to the conditions set in Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what basis levels of reimbursement of car mileage undertaken on Government business are calculated. [215419]

Phil Hope: The Department does not provide central guidance on how the levels of reimbursement of car mileage are calculated. Departments and agencies have delegated authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by their own staff in connection with their employment subject to the conditions set in Section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Joint Intelligence Committee: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff the Joint Intelligence Committee has; and what the *(a)* job description and *(b)* pay band of each is. [214874]

Edward Miliband: The Joint Intelligence Committee is supported by the assessments staff, based in the Cabinet Office, which includes a range of analytical staff seconded from various departments, services and disciplines.

As is the normal practice, and in the interest of national security, information on the number of staff, their job descriptions or their individual pay bands is not disclosed.

JUSTICE

Coroners: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what inquests have not opened in Northern Ireland more than five years after the death in question. [215296]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently 47 cases in which the death occurred more than five years ago where the coroner has determined that an inquest is necessary but the inquest has yet to take place.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215196]

Mr. Wills: The average costs to the Ministry of Justice for press and media officers are:

Band A (Chief Press Officer level and above, but below SCS): £75,506

Band B (Senior Information Officer): £46,677

Band C (Information Officer): £38,410.

These figures include costs for National Insurance and pension payments to the Department as well as salary.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 859W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list for hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215274]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department and its predecessor submitted in the last 24 months. [211129]

Mr. Wills: The information requested has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214717]

Mr. Wills: My Department formally invites interest in secondments in a number of different ways in order to attract the widest possible field of candidates. This includes inviting interest both through the Whitehall and Industry Group and Cabinet Office, both of which take positive action in order to attract candidates from minority groups. Performance and development objectives are agreed with the post holder at the outset together with any learning and development support required. The MoJ has well-established equality and diversity policies and procedures. This includes provision of flexible working options and the opportunity to join staff networks, which can provide practical support to those from minority groups on secondment. Terms and conditions and the right to return to substantive post are agreed by the individual with the organisation from which they come.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214654]

Mr. Wills: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997 to 1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely compliance by different social groups with individual voter registration. [216393]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any assessment of the likely compliance by different social groups with individual voter registration, but we are aware that any new system of electoral registration in Great Britain would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration.

The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. But this would be a far-reaching reform, and it would need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration.

Family Conciliation Services

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations his Department and its predecessor have received from children's charities on mediation in family disputes; and if he will make a statement. [215881]

Bridget Prentice: Neither this nor predecessor Departments have received any representations from children's charities regarding mediation in family disputes.

The Government believe that mediation can offer considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved, irrespective of how cases are funded. To support and encourage mediation, we have established the Family Mediation Helpline and supporting website. The Helpline telephone number is 0845 60 26 627 and the website address is:

www.FamilyMediationHelpline.co.uk

We have sponsored a public awareness campaign; are facilitating judicial awareness seminars and supporting in-court referral schemes.

Provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

The Legal Services Commission's revised Family Fee scheme will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation. Under the scheme, it will be in the interests of the solicitor to make a referral to mediation and to do so at an earlier stage.

The Ministry does not set targets for mediation because we do not think that a target in this area would be desirable. There are certain cases which are unsuitable for mediation because there is an imbalance of power between the parties. We do not wish to see such cases, which include those where one of the parties has been subject to domestic violence, forced into mediation. In addition, while we can advise parties about the benefits of mediation it could be a breach of the parties' human rights to prevent them having their case heard in court.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215102]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has 92 staff working in its Communications Directorate. These staff provide professional communications expertise in marketing and publications, stakeholder and staff communications, website management, media relations. Roles range from press officer, web editor, internal communications, marketing specialists and publications officers. Other Ministry staff in policy units may perform a communications function as part of their role, among other aspects. We do not hold a central list of such posts. It would not be possible to quantify this number without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Land Registry has 13 Government communicators.

The National Archives has 12 communicators.

The Office of the Public Guardian has six staff in their communications and marketing team.

The Tribunals Service has six people in their communications team.

The Judicial Communications Office has nine communications staff.

The Judicial Appointments Commission has two Government communicators.

Her Majesty's Court Service has 12 communicators.

The Legal Services Commission has 16 communicators.

No members of staff at the Boundary Commission for England and the Boundary Commission for Wales are classified as communications staff.

All Civil Servants who work in a communications role can gain access to the Government Communications Network (GCN) and the resources that it provides. Membership of the GCN is self-determined and the Ministry does not hold a central record of such memberships.

Television: Licensing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* fined and *(b)* prosecuted for non-payment of television licence fees in each of the last three years. [214987]

Mr. Hanson: In 2007, 5,901 people in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for non-payment of a television licence and, of these, 4,464 were fined. These data have been collated due to new IT arrangements that were not available for 2005 and 2006.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 July 2008

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were carried out at each week of gestation *(a)* between four and 17 weeks and *(b)* from 22 weeks in 2007, broken down by (i) age of mother, (ii) area of residency of mother, (iii) grounds for abortion, (iv) marital status of mother, (v) number of previous children and (vi) number of previous abortions; and how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed in the (A) public and (B) private sectors. [214065]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is set out in the following table.

Abortions by gestation, 4-17 weeks and 22 weeks and over, and purchaser, age, strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, grounds, marital status and parity, residents of England and Wales, 2007

	Gestation weeks								
	4	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
Purchaser									
National health service	1,258	3,156	5,938	5,062	2,745	1,390	856	552	441
Private	1,446	7,649	21,857	32,438	33,350	22,855	17,890	10,975	8,284
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
NHS percentage	53	71	79	87	92	94	95	95	95
Private percentage	47	29	21	13	8	6	5	5	5
Age									
Under 16	16	118	430	765	798	584	472	298	262
16 and 17	100	576	1,693	2,653	3,022	2,127	1,709	1,088	827
18 and 19	212	986	2,632	3,970	4,394	3,081	2,613	1,660	1,180
20-24	650	2,808	7,571	10,490	10,483	7,194	5,653	3,388	2,628
25-29	695	2,543	6,389	8,345	7,471	4,997	3,699	2,233	1,710
30-34	510	1,724	4,400	5,455	4,925	3,111	2,294	1,460	1,024
35-39	358	1,350	3,173	4,114	3,550	2,291	1,636	975	780
40 and over	163	700	1,507	1,768	1,452	860	670	425	314
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
SHA of residence									
East of England	260	1,097	2,412	3,012	3,177	1,901	1,674	976	642
East Midlands	39	273	1,038	1,886	2,744	1,852	1,723	1,106	674
London	1,194	3,535	8,438	10,591	7,987	5,260	3,622	2,401	2,056
North East	19	275	1,002	1,295	1,460	1,051	768	485	409
North West	219	1,143	4,010	4,496	4,547	3,383	2,373	1,383	1,027
South Central	126	772	1,666	2,626	2,483	1,418	978	616	415
South East	328	1,102	2,168	3,214	2,336	1,367	1,012	593	490
South West	107	416	1,350	2,233	2,682	1,928	1,622	1,053	731
West Midlands	129	1,216	2,660	4,145	4,034	2,617	1,808	1,095	934
Yorkshire and the Humber	237	753	2,134	2,528	2,855	2,130	2,082	1,216	964
Wales	46	223	917	1,474	1,790	1,338	1,084	603	383
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
Grounds									
Section 1(1)(c) alone or with other	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Section 1(1)(b) alone or with other	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	61	104	118	132	[1]—	[1]—
Section 1(1)(a) alone	[1]—	[1]—	27,599	37,106	35,488	23,656	18,259	11,250	8,323
Section 1(1)(a) alone or with other	[1]—	[1]—	143	307	476	451	329	168	143
Section 1(1)(d) alone or with other	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	44	212
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
Marital status									
Single no partner	665	2,788	7,332	10,003	10,112	7,285	5,539	3,419	2,678

9

Abortions by gestation, 4-17 weeks and 22 weeks and over, and purchaser, age, strategic health authority (SHA) of residence, grounds, marital status and parity, residents of England and Wales, 2007

	Gestation weeks								
	4	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
Single with partner	1,261	4,601	11,297	14,454	13,825	9,181	7,047	4,292	3,044
Single not stated	60	466	1,560	2,806	2,672	1,588	1,464	982	821
Married/Civil partnership	519	1,972	4,898	6,147	5,125	3,266	2,258	1,339	1,048
Separated	63	248	501	586	529	361	249	168	110
Widowed	[1]—	30	47	52	65	31	33	14	[1]—
Divorced	47	155	339	429	354	236	147	98	76
Not known/not stated	[1]—	545	1,821	3,023	3,413	2,297	2,009	1,215	[1]—
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
Previous pregnancies over 24 weeks resulting in a birth									
0	1,493	5,720	14,709	19,972	19,104	12,798	9,920	6,061	4,510
1	502	1,994	5,300	7,245	7,220	4,840	3,704	2,440	1,893
2	480	1,966	4,951	6,410	5,974	4,050	3,087	1,759	1,339
3	156	776	1,927	2,645	2,549	1,680	1,314	798	618
4	58	254	649	833	853	566	465	309	212
5+	15	95	259	395	395	311	256	160	153
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725
Previous abortions									
0	1,731	7,112	18,408	25,147	24,743	16,573	12,851	7,701	5,873
1	750	2,820	7,223	9,553	8,830	5,917	4,530	2,883	2,142
2	169	664	1,616	2,120	1,907	1,339	1,036	701	536
3 or more	54	209	548	680	615	416	329	242	174
Total all	2,704	10,805	27,795	37,500	36,095	24,245	18,746	11,527	8,725

	Gestation weeks							
	13	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*22*	*23*[1]	*24+*
Purchaser								
National health service	324	204	188	125	109	62	51	135
Private	4,917	3,539	2,581	1,778	1,444	735	330	[2]
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135
NHS percentage	94	95	93	93	93	90	88	100
Private percentage	6	5	7	7	7	10	12	0
Age								
Under 16	153	113	88	74	48	33	[1]	[1]
16 and 17	510	387	293	200	182	77	[1]—	[1]
18 and 19	741	513	434	289	231	76	[1]—	[1]
20-24	1,535	1,117	882	587	479	184	122	27
25-29	967	674	478	316	274	108	78	30
30-34	602	460	306	206	149	67	65	31
35-39	506	333	194	159	130	52	43	28
40 and over	227	146	94	72	60	28	[1]—	[1]—
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135
SHA of residence								
East of England	314	202	193	137	117	58	37	26
East Midlands	277	252	212	150	120	49	[1]—	[1]—
London	1,440	726	723	463	447	163	112	29
North East	238	177	128	85	69	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
North West	520	723	299	218	146	62	40	20
South Central	374	165	153	121	105	51	[1]—	[1]—
South East	337	199	187	145	87	51	40	15
South West	414	282	172	135	112	47	[1]—	[1]—
West Midlands	500	489	342	212	162	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Yorkshire and the Humber	562	344	244	160	129	66	[1]—	[1]—
Wales	265	184	116	77	59	42	[1]—	[1]—
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135

	Gestation weeks							
	13	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*22*	*23*[1]	*24+*
Grounds								
Section 1(1)(c) alone or with other	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Section 1(1)(b) alone or with other	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Section 1(1)(a) alone	4,867	3,464	2,632	1,770	1,431	486	354	[4]
Section 1(1)(a) alone or with other	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[4]
Section 1(1)(d) alone or with other	307	211	99	104	110	[3]	[3]	[3]
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135
Marital status								
Single no partner	1,536	1,391	879	607	537	168	109	[3]
Single with partner	1,764	1,097	934	587	463	195	38	[3]
Single not stated	538	330	265	177	134	60	151	[3]
Married/Civil partnership	718	469	318	245	192	107	75	[3]
Separated	70	41	34	22	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Widowed	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]		[3]	[3]	[3]
Divorced	44	21	19	14	10	[3]	[3]	[3]
Not known/not stated	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]		85	[3]	[3]
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135
Previous pregnancies over 24 weeks resulting in a birth								
0	2,742	1,940	1,483	1,013	822	365	[3]	[3]
1	1,126	880	608	438	349	131	[3]	[3]
2	804	535	393	260	214	76	[3]	[3]
3	337	246	179	121	108	33	[3]	[3]
4	149	96	69	52	42	[3]	[3]	[3]
5+	83	46	37	19	18	[3]	[3]	[3]
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135
Previous abortions								
0	3,551	2,563	1,879	1,306	1,065	447	[3]	[3]
1	1,291	900	704	465	378	122	[3]	[3]
2	303	213	145	104	73	[3]	[3]	[3]
3 or more	96	67	41	28	37	[3]	[3]	[3]
Total all	5,241	3,743	2,769	1,903	1,553	625	441	135

[1] 23 weeks includes gestations of 24 weeks plus 0 days.
[2] Not applicable all abortions over 24+ weeks gestation must be performed in an NHS hospital.
[3] Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented value would reveal a suppressed total.
[4] Not applicable time limit for Section 1 (1)(a) is 24 weeks plus 0 days.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 16 years of age were admitted to the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with either a primary or secondary diagnosis related to alcohol in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [214819]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of children under 16 years, admitted to the Peterborough and Stanford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with either a primary or secondary diagnosis related to alcohol, in each year since 2001 is not centrally held.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients admitted to hospital needed treatment for excess alcohol consumption in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* Buckinghamshire in each of the last three years. [214934]

Dawn Primarolo: The information on the percentage of patients admitted to hospital needed treatment for excess drinking in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire in each of the last three years is not held centrally.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 25-year-olds were admitted to hospital in Milton Keynes for alcohol-related illness in the most recent period for which figures are available. [214939]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of under 25s admitted to hospital in Milton Keynes for alcohol related illness is not held centrally.

Ambulance Services: Working Hours

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* research he has commissioned on the effect of the EU Working Time Directive on the ability of ambulance staff to attend emergencies promptly; and if he will make a statement. [214238]

Mr. Bradshaw: During the introduction of the Agenda for Change NHS pay system, the Department received occasional representations on issues relating to meal breaks, although not all of these explicitly referenced the European Working Time Directive. We have not received any such representations recently, nor have we commissioned research on the effect of the European Working Time Directive on the ability of ambulance staff to attend emergencies.

Ambulance staff have been covered by the European Working Time Directive since 1998 and local NHS employers are responsible for its implementation.

Blood Transfusions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of providing treatment for *(a)* HIV/AIDS and *(b)* hepatitis C to haemophiliacs infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood products under NHS treatment (i) per person and (ii) in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [213602]

(2) what estimate the Department has made of the cost of supporting *(a)* haemophiliacs and *(b)* dependants of haemophiliacs infected with (i) HIV and (ii) hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment (A) in total and (B) in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [213608]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the costs of providing HIV/AIDS or hepatitis C treatment to haemophiliacs infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood.

An estimated £50 million has been paid through the Skipton Fund to support patients with haemophilia infected with hepatitis C. Of these payments, in up to 50 cases, payments were made to dependants.

Patients and dependants of patients who were infected with HIV do receive support from the Macfarlane Trust. Information is not available on the cost of supporting these dependants.

Carer's Allowance: Chester

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the City of Chester constituency receive carer's allowance. [215336]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply

As at November 2007, the most recent available information, 710 people in the City of Chester parliamentary constituency were in receipt of carer's allowance.

Children: Palliative Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government has taken to improve the quality of care given to children with terminal illnesses; [214822]

(2) what support the Government gives to parents of children with terminal illnesses. [214823]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* On 19 February 2008, we launched the first national strategy for children's palliative care "Better Care: Better Lives", copies of the Strategy are available in the Library. The Strategy will assist local commissioners, providers and regulators in devising local strategies to enable every child and young person with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition access to high-quality, family centred, sustainable care and support with services provided in a setting of choice according to the child's and family's wishes. It sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place palliative care at the centre of local children's service provision.

We also announced an additional £20 million in funding to enable the Children's Hospices and Hospice at Home grant to continue in 2009-10 and 2010-11 with £10 million available in each year.

We wrote to primary care trusts and local authorities on 19 December 2007, setting out the investment and growth funding put in place to support our commitments and priorities for disabled children set out in the "Children's Plan" and "the operating framework. For the National Health Service in England 2008-09". This includes substantial investment to increase the range and number of short breaks. Copies of both publications are available in the Library.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider extending the recently announced review into the prescription of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia to include people with a learning disability. [214305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The review into the prescription of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia will cover all those who have the condition, including people with a learning disability who have dementia.

Depression: Medical Treatments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many treatments for depression using the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved computerised cognitive behavioural therapy have been commissioned by primary care trusts since March 2007; and if he will make a statement; [214977]

(2) what funding his Department provides for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved computerised cognitive behavioural therapy packages in primary care trusts; how much of this funding has been spent in the 2008-09 financial year; and if he will make a statement; [214978]

(3) pursuant to the answer of June 2008, *Official Report*, column 604W, on psychiatry: standards, what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of primary care trusts that provide National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)-approved computerised cognitive behavioural therapy at a level sufficient to meet the requirements set out in NICE guidelines. [214988]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its guidance computerised cognitive behaviour therapy for depression and anxiety in February 2004. NICE will be consulting on review plans for this guidance in September 2008.

Whether a patient has received computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) treatment would be recorded in individual patients' notes and by the various NHS, private and voluntary sector organisations providing such services.

The Department's role is to set out a strategic framework and secure adequate funding for the NHS and adult care services. PCTs are responsible for providing local health services, including the provision of cCBT and together with their strategic health authorities are responsible for deciding which services to plan, commission and develop to meet the health needs of their local communities.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 506W, on doctors: working hours, what guidance he has issued to healthcare trusts on application of the European Working Time Directive with particular reference to *(a)* compensatory rest requirements and *(b)* accrual of compensatory rest as annual leave entitlement; [216222]

(2) what guidance he has issued to *(a)* healthcare trusts and *(b)* other care setting providers on the inclusion of sleeping duty in calculations of inactive on-call time. [216216]

Ann Keen: An information note on resident on-call working and compensatory rest for NHS and social care employers was updated on 18 March 2004. The note was entitled; "Jaeger judgment: information for NHS and social care employer", copies have been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingworkforceplanninghome/Europeanworkingtimedirective/DH_4068970

A further information note was published in August 2006 entitled; "European Working Time Directive: Information note on compensatory rest and exceptional circumstances". Copies of this note have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingworkforceplanninghome/Europeanworkingtimedirective/DH_4066882

We have not issued guidance about accrual of compensatory rest as annual leave entitlement. General guidance on the Working Time Regulations can be found on the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's website at:

> www.berr.gov.uk/employment/employment-legislation/employment-guidance/page28978.html

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to prevent elder abuse; what recent discussions he has had with the Commission for Social Care Inspection on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [214040]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government regard abuse of vulnerable and older people as unacceptable in all its forms and are determined to root it out.

We are addressing the issue in a variety of ways. We set out standards for care and treatment for the national health service and social care services via the national service frameworks for older people and mental health and the White Paper, "Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability".

We introduced regulations and national minimum standards for care homes, domiciliary care agencies and adult placements. These are intended to ensure vulnerable and older people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected, staff are properly trained and care is of the requisite quality.

We have created independent regulators, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Healthcare Commission, and given them the powers they need to take action against poorly performing providers or where abuse occurs. Ultimately, they have the power to close services down.

We introduced the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) Scheme in July 2004, which requires staff who provide personal care to older people in their own homes or in care homes to be subject to statutory checks, including checks of their criminal record. The scheme, which operates as a workforce ban, prevents dangerous or unscrupulous people from gaining access to older and vulnerable people in care homes or being cared for in their own homes.

We expect local authorities to play their part. "No Secrets" (copies of which are available in the Library), statutory guidance published by the Department of Health and the Home Office in 2000, provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the NHS and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring. On 14 June 2007, I announced a review of the "No Secrets" guidance. The case for legislation to protect vulnerable adults will be considered as part of the review and there will be a public consultation later this year.

On 14 June, I also announced plans to introduce a new monitoring system to report the extent of abuse across England. This will help address the current information gap on levels of reported abuse. As part of this, the Department will introduce a standardised method for the collection of data on protection of vulnerable adult referrals in England. The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) is leading the work to develop and collect data from councils. The IC anticipates that councils should be in a position to collect the data during 2008-09 and expect to have collected the data, analysed them and be in a position to disseminate the findings by the end of 2009.

Local authorities (LAs) have been given specific responsibilities. Statutory guidance issued in May 2006 required them to ensure that Directors of Adult Social Services maintain a clear organisational and operational focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults and that relevant statutory requirements and other national standards are met, including POVA requirements. LAs must make sure the Director of Adult Social Services has the powers and resources necessary to encourage a culture of vigilance against the possibility of adult abuse.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005, which came into force on 1 October 2007, introduces a new criminal offence of ill treatment or wilful neglect of a person who lacks capacity.

The Department supports the work of the charity, Action on Elder Abuse (AEA). AEA has been awarded a three-year section 64 grant, totalling £360,000. This grant covers the three-year period from 2007 to 2009 and is to help fund central administrative costs.

We are introducing a new centralised vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable people. This scheme, as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, will extend the coverage of the existing barring schemes and draw on wider sources of information to provide a more comprehensive and consistent measure of protection for vulnerable groups across a wide range of settings, including the whole of social care and the NHS. It will be proactive, with vetting taking place on an individual's first application to work with children or vulnerable adults.

The scheme, which will be administered by the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. It will start to receive applications from 12 October 2009. When used in conjunction with an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, the ISA scheme will provide employers with the most comprehensive vetting service on offer anywhere in the world.

CSCI has ongoing discussions with the Department on the prevention of elder abuse. Recent meetings to discuss the issue have included:

The Advisory Group for the review of "No Secrets";

The ISA Regulator's Sub Group, to advise on key issues for regulators in relation to establishing the new ISA and vetting and barring scheme; and

The reference group to advise on establishing the national data collection by local councils.

CSCI is represented on all of these groups.

EU Employment Social Policy Health and Consumer Affairs Council

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, on the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, for what reason no Minister attended the Council held on 9 and 10 June 2008. [214866]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to parliamentary commitments, no Minister was able to attend the health council meeting. In accordance with protocol, a senior official from the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union (the Deputy Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht) represented the UK.

National Health Service Blood and Transplant Agency

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the proposed relocation of the National Health Service Blood and Transplant Agency to Bristol; and if he will make a statement. [215591]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to move NHS Blood and Transplant to Bristol. However, a new blood centre will open at Filton, near Bristol this year, which will be the largest blood processing centre in the world. It will include cutting edge technology and be a state-of-the-art centre.

NHS Cord Blood Bank

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons the NHS cord blood bank is to be relocated to Bristol; [215589]

(2) what the estimated cost of the proposed relocation of the NHS cord blood bank to Bristol will be. [215590]

Dawn Primarolo: The processing, storage and testing of cord blood will move to the new blood centre at Filton, which will also house other stem cell activities.

NHS Blood and Transplant will continue to collect cord blood donations in the four hospitals where this currently takes place, with collection also due to begin at St George's Hospital in Tooting later this year.

The rationale for moving processing, storage and testing of cord blood to Filton rests on considerations of:

safety and quality assurance

capacity, capability and training/career opportunities for staff. The benefits of co-locating the NHS cord blood bank at Filton include the fact that staff processing cord blood will have the opportunity to develop their skills and expertise with bone marrow and peripheral blood testing; and

consolidation of services to retain a good geographic spread across the country, while enabling the service to be more productive and ensuring the necessary flexibility to meet clinical and safety requirements now and in the future.

The development of new facilities for storage of cord blood units at Edgware or Colindale is not an option due to lack of space and additional cost.

The initial estimate of the cost of moving the processing, testing and storage of cord blood from Edgware to the new Filton Blood Centre is £80,000.

NHS: Drugs

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of patients who experienced serious side effects as a direct consequence of taking prescribed medicines in the last period for which figures are available and *(b)* cost to the NHS of dealing with this problem. [213992]

Dawn Primarolo: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme (YCS).

The YCS collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

During the last financial year (1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008), the MHRA received 19,227 serious suspected ADR reports associated with all medicines. It is not possible to provide numbers of ADR reports received specifically for prescribed medicines as this information is not collected on yellow cards.

It is important to note that the number of reports received via the YCS does not directly equate to the number of people who suffer adverse reactions to drugs for a number of reasons, as the YCS is associated with an unknown level of under-reporting.

It is also important to note that the submission of a suspected ADR report does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the patient's underlying disease.

An assessment has been made by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) of the cost to the national health service of avoidable harm related to taking prescribed medicines. This is outlined in their fourth Patient Safety Observatory report "Safety in doses: medication safety incidents in the NHS", which estimated the figure at £770 million each year in England.

Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library and are also available on the NPSA's website at:

> www.npsa.nhs.uk/patientsafety/alerts-and-directives/directives-guidance/safety-in-doses/

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the date was of each meeting his officials have had with the South Central Strategic Health Authority on the future of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in the last 12 months; what the purpose of those meetings was; and what was discussed at each. [216317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following meetings have taken place between departmental officials and South Central strategic health authority (SHA) on the future of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in the last 12 months:

> On 11 June 2008, departmental officials met with senior executives of South Central SHA to review the SHA's financial and service plans and projected performance for the South Central area. This included reference to the expected performance of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in 2008-09.
>
> On 19 June 2008, departmental officials met the chief executive and deputy chief executive of South Central SHA specifically for them to explain its approach to the strategic review of future options for the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. The SHA agreed to keep the Department informed of developments as the review progressed and potential options emerged.

Nutrition

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population which consumes less than five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. [215763]

Dawn Primarolo: "The Health Survey for England 2006" shows 70 per cent. of adults and 79 per cent. of children aged five to 15 consuming less than five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

Average fruit and vegetable consumption was 3.9 portions per day(ppd) among adults and 3.3 ppd among children.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on levels of (i) childhood obesity and (ii) children's levels of exercise; and what benchmarking his Department has done of the results of such research against equivalent figures for other European countries. [214173]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for health and social care is commissioned by the Department to collect and evaluate data on the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP) and the Health Survey for England (HSE).

The NCMP provides the most comprehensive data on obesity among children aged 4 to 5 and 10 to 11 years. The most recent available data can be found in "National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results", which was published on 21 February 2008. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

The HSE collects data on levels of obesity and physical activity in children aged 2 to 15. The most recent available data can be found in "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children", which was published on 31 January 2008. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

"Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England", published on 23 January 2008 (copies of the Strategy have already been placed in the Library), committed the Government to establishing the National Obesity Observatory. In June 2008 it published "National Child Measurement Programme: Detailed Analysis of the 2006-07 National Dataset", which highlights the usefulness of the NCMP for advancing our understanding of underweight, overweight and obese children. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

The Department has not benchmarked these figures on levels of obesity and physical activity in children against equivalent figures for other European countries. The Government Office of Science's Foresight project "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices" is a world-leading analysis of the causes and consequences of obesity, which includes an evidence review "International Comparisons of Obesity Trends, Determinants and Responses", which compares levels of child obesity in

England with figures for other European countries. Copies of this publication have been placed in the library.

The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children: World Health Organization Collaborative Cross-National Study's latest report "Inequalities in Young People's Health", presents a comparison of levels of physical activity by young people aged 11, 13, and 15 years in 41 countries and regions across Europe and North America, including England. It was published on 17 June 2008. The relevant section of this publication has been placed in the Library.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collect on levels of obesity on a regional basis; and what estimate he has made of obesity levels among children in London in each of the last five years. [214182]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

Information on the percentage of adults aged 16 and over, and children aged 2 to 15 in England who are obese, broken down by Government office region and strategic health authority (SHA), are collected in the Health Survey for England.

The most recent available data for adults can be found in Table 5.3, page 99, "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 1 Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults", which was published on 31 January 2008. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The most recent available data for children can be found in Tables 2.3 and 2.11, pages 36 and 43, "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children", which was published on 31 January 2008. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Information on the trends in obesity among children in the London Government office region for 1995-97, 1998-2000, 2001-2003, and 2004-06 can be found in Table 2.11, page 43, "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children".

Obesity: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were classified as clinically obese in Peterborough Primary Care Trust area and its predecessor bodies in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [214799]

Dawn Primarolo: The information on the number of people classified as clinically obese in Peterborough Primary Care Trust, and its predecessors in each year since 1997, is not held centrally.

Papillomavirus

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specifications were included in the tendering process for the vaccine against human papillomavirus. [215083]

Dawn Primarolo: The specification set out in the procurement documents for the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) identified the following categories of requirements:

> Requirements described as 'mandatory' are compulsory requirements. Offerors must confirm in their offer that they are able to fully meet all mandatory requirements in order for such offer to be a fully compliant offer. Offers which do not meet all mandatory requirements may be rejected by the agency[1];
>
> Requirements described as 'non-mandatory' are desirable, but not compulsory requirements. The offeror's ability to meet the non-mandatory requirements will form part of the evaluation of the offer, but non-compliance with the non-mandatory requirements will not, of itself, render that offer non-compliant; and
>
> Requirements described as 'information' are requests for information or documentation. The quality and/or content of such information or documentation will form part of the evaluation of the offer. The required information must be included in an offer in order for that offer to be a fully complaint offer.

The detailed requirements were:

		Requirement
1.1.0 Product		
1.1.1	HPV supplied as a suspension for injection in a pre-filled syringe.	Mandatory requirement
1.1.2	The vaccine must be licensed for use in the United Kingdom to protect against HPV strains 16 and 18.	Mandatory requirement
1.1.3	The vaccine must be indicated for the prevention of high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN grades 2 and 3) and cervical cancer causally related to HPV types 16 and 18.	Mandatory requirement
1.1.4	The vaccine must be licensed for administration to girls aged 12 and older via a maximum of three doses.	Mandatory requirement
1.1.5	In addition to the protection against HPV strains 16 and 18 the Authority[2] will consider other aspects of product efficacy, to include additional licensed indications; cross protection against HPV strains other than those types covered in the licensed indications from pre and post licensing clinical trials; duration of protection for all licensed indications; and management of storage temperature excursions as supported by accelerated stability studies.	Non-mandatory requirement
1.1.6	Offerors are required to provide supporting information as part of their submission.	Information requirement

		Requirement
1.1.7	Offerors are requested to provide information in relation to variations to the dosage schedules for their vaccine.	Information requirement
1.2.0 Presentation		
1.2.1	The vaccine must be supplied as a pre-filled syringe with needle for administration.	Mandatory requirement
1.2.2	The Authority has a preference for a single syringe pack presentation to reduce the potential for wastage during the Immunisation Programme.	Non-mandatory requirement
1.2.3	Offerors must provide details of the pack sizes available.	Information requirement
1.3.0 Shelf life		
1.3.1	The licensed shelf life of the vaccine shall be at least three years	Mandatory requirement
1.3.2	Shelf life of the product supplied should be equal to the maximum shelf life less the time used for release and shipment of the product to the Authority[2] and shall be no less than two years.	Mandatory requirement
1.3.3.	Offerors must provide details of the anticipated shelf life of the vaccine to be supplied to the Authority[2]. This must be supported by information on the production and final product release timelines, including the maximum time required for external quality assessment by the OMCL[1] if the expiry date of a vaccine batch is determined before this production stage in the vaccine Marketing Authorisation.	Information requirement
1.4.0 Temperature indicators		
1.4.1	The Authority[2] has a preference for the inclusion in the vaccine packaging of a temperature indicator which would indicate if the vaccine had been exposed to a temperature above or below the storage requirements specified in the Marketing Authorisation. The purpose of this request is to reduce wastage where there has been a transient increase or reduction in temperature in storage and the supply as measured by the surrounding air temperature and the product temperature may have remained within the approved temperature range.	Non-mandatory requirement
1.4.2	This response should include, but is not limited to, information on the availability of such temperature indicators and the feasibility of providing these with the vaccine doses supplied during the life of this Agreement.	Information requirement
1.5.0 Cold chain delivery requirements		
1.5.1	Offerors are requested to provide details of the method of distribution and temperature control systems that will be employed, including the records that will be provided to the Authority[2].	Information requirement
1.6.0 Batch numbering system		
1.6.1	Offerors are requested to provide details of the structure of their batch numbering system for the vaccine. This information is being requested to allow the Authority[2] to incorporate an error checking system for the recording of batch numbering into the Child Health Monitoring computer systems.	Information requirement
2.1.0 Delivery schedule		
2.1.1	Offerors must be able to deliver 820,000 doses during August and September 2008. The delivery profile for this requirement must comprise of no less than 50,000 doses delivered by 1 August 2008, 200,000 doses delivered by 15 August 2008, 115,000 doses delivered by 22 August, 255,000 doses delivered by the 5 September 2008 and 200,000 doses delivered by 19 September 2008. Offerors should note that no deliveries can be made before 1 July 2008. Offerors may vary the requirements laid out in 2.1.1, but only in so far that the Authority receives the quantities required before all of the dates stated in 2.1.1, though not prior to 1 July 2008.	Mandatory requirement
2.1.2	Offerors should include a proposed delivery schedule detailing how they would deliver the consignments necessary to complete the delivery of the first 820,000 doses to the Authority's[2] nominated distributor. Offerors should note that no deliveries can be made before 1 July 2008.	Information requirement
2.1.3	Offerors must be able to deliver the total number of doses of vaccine as identified in the delivery requirements.	Mandatory requirement
2.1.4	Offerors must be able to deliver the 'in year' totals that is 1,620,000 doses delivered in year 1 of the contract, 3,900,000 doses delivered in year 2 of the contract and 2,025,300 doses delivered in year 3 of the contract.	Mandatory requirement

		Requirement
2.1.5	For all deliveries after the first 820,000 doses, in addition to 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, offerors must ensure the programme stock levels are maintained and therefore the proposed schedule is mandatory in that the Authority must receive the quantities required before all of the dates stated.	Mandatory requirement
2.1.6	Taking account of the mandatory requirements laid out in 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5, Offerors are encouraged to deliver in accordance with the delivery profile outlined. Offerors should note that the offers will be evaluated on how well the proposed delivery schedule matches (or in the case of the first 820,000 doses, exceed) the requirements.	Non-mandatory requirement
2.1.7	Offerors are required to provide their proposed delivery schedule.	Information requirement
2.2.0 Pallets		
2.2.1	The Authority would prefer the Offeror to use Europallets for the delivery to the Authority's distribution agent and for storage within the distribution agent's warehouse	Non-mandatory requirement
2.2.2	Offerors are required to provide details of their pallet-packing configuration.	Information requirement
2.3.0 Manufacturing contingency plans		
2.3.1	Offerors must be able to demonstrate to the Authority that they have an effective contingency plan for the maintenance of vaccine supply to cover manufacturing problems and staff shortages. This should include the use of alternative production facilities and safety stock provisions.	Mandatory requirement
2.3.2	Offerors are requested to provide a summary of the contingency plan. The Authority will use the information provided in this summary document to evaluate the supply risks in the tender evaluation. Offerors should provide a summary document and clearly state the file name/reference.	Information requirement
2.4.0 Production Capacity		
2.4.1	Offerors are requested to provide the Authority with the following details which will also be used to assess the supply risks in the tender evaluation: The average number of doses in a production batch of vaccine; The current and maximum production capacity in terms of finished vaccine dose per week or month; The current production demand in doses per month; The number of batches submitted for release by the OMCL(s) and the pass rate in the last 12 months; and The production cycle time.	Information requirement
2.4.2	Offerors are requested to include any additional information to be taken into consideration in relation to production capacity.	Information requirement
2.5.0 Risk management of storage and distribution		
	Offerors must be able to demonstrate to the Authority that they have an effective risk management approach to storage and distribution of the vaccine. Offerors are required to provide a summary of their risk management plans to minimise loss of stock in relation to storage arrangements prior to delivery to the Authority; and transportation of stock to the Authority's nominated distributor. Offerors should provide a summary document and clearly state the file name / reference summary.	Information requirement
2.6.0 Variant offers		
	In addition to their core offer, offerors may wish to provide the Authority with a single variant offer that improves the clinical and/or cost effectiveness of the vaccination programme. The Authority is not considering any options for direct delivery of the product from supplier to the primary care trust or general practitioner under this procurement exercise. Any valid variant offers received will be subject to the same evaluation criteria as the core offer.	Non-mandatory requirement

---

[1] Any references in the specification to the agency refers to National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency.

[2] Any reference in the specification to the authority refers to the Department of Health.

[3] OMCL refers to the Official Medical Control Laboratory.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of the NHS-prescribed vaccine for the prevention of human papilloma virus infection in comparison with other vaccines considered for NHS use for the same purposes. [215478]

Dawn Primarolo: Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines are highly effective at preventing the infection of susceptible women with the HPV types covered by the vaccine. In clinical trials, both Cervirix and Gardasil vaccines are over 99 per cent. effective at preventing pre-cancerous lesions associated with HPV types 16 or 18 in young women[1]. Current studies suggest that protection is maintained for at least six years. Based on the immune responses, it is expected that protection will be extended further; long term follow-up studies are in place. Some other high-risk HPV types are closely related to those contained in the vaccines, and vaccination has been shown to provide some cross-protection against infection by these types[2]. Gardasil is also 99 per cent. effective at preventing genital warts associated with vaccine types in young women[3].

Further information on the vaccine can be found in chapter 18a (human papillomavirus) of "Immunisation against infectious disease" (the Green Book). Copies of the publication have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/greenbook.

Sources:

[1] Harper etal., 2006; Ault etal., 2007

[2] Paavonen J et al., 2007; Brown et al., 2007

[3] Barr et al., 2007

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with patient groups concerned with human papilloma virus infection on the availability of vaccines against infection to NHS patients. [215479]

Dawn Primarolo: Qualitative attitudinal research was conducted among young girls, their parents and health professionals in May and June 2007. Its purpose was to explore awareness and perceptions of human papilloma virus (HPV) and the vaccination that will protect against it.

The proposed advertising concepts and information materials were tested among 12 to 13-year-old girls and their mothers. This research took place between December 2007 and February of this year. As well as evaluating our planned communications work, these consultations gave us the opportunity to identify any more recent changes in attitudes and awareness levels.

Further consultations are planned before and after the introduction of the HPV vaccine.

Pharmacy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government on the ongoing Departmental review of part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement; [215498]

(2) what measures have been taken to inform relevant Welsh stakeholders about the Departmental review of part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement; [215499]

(3) whether he has met the Secretary of State for Wales to discuss his Department's review of part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement; [215500]

(4) which Welsh stakeholders have been contacted regarding the Departmental review of part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [215501]

Dawn Primarolo: The review of the arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services in primary care relates to England only.

However, health officials in the Welsh Assembly have been made aware of the review and have been monitoring its progress.

Pharmacy: Payments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of payments to pharmacies to conduct medicines use reviews on the number of such reviews conducted. [214935]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are aware of concerns regarding the payment mechanism for medicine use reviews (MURs) and that they are not being targeted to local needs. For this reason, the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: building on strengths—delivering the future" (Cm 7341), sets out the Government's belief that MUR services should be prioritised to meet health needs. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. The Government have asked NHS employers to discuss with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee a mechanism for delivering this, ensuring funding rewards health outcomes.

Secure Psychiatric Units: Smoking

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government (1) have estimated how many mental health trusts made use of the support provided by the Tobacco Control Collaborative Centre to introduce the forthcoming smoking ban in psychiatric units; and whether the Government intend to review the effectiveness of this support once the ban comes into effect; [214975]

(2) what plans the Government have to measure the effect of the forthcoming smoking ban in in-patient psychiatric units on *(a)* the physical health and *(b)* the mental health of smokers being treated. [214976]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government commissioned the Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre (TCCC) to provide support to mental health service providers in the lead up to the implementation of the smoke free legislation in residential mental health units on 1 July 2008. The TCCC initially met with mental health trust chief executives in the summer of 2007.

The TCCC wrote to all foundation trusts, national health service trusts and independent providers asking about their smoke-free policies and inviting individual trusts to request additional support, such as visits. The TCCC has also worked with regional stop smoking leads to organise local workshops to address implementation issues. This initial contact was followed up by sending mental health providers smoke free resources, accompanied by a further offer of support to trusts on an individual basis. To date 24 mental health service providers have been visited.

The Government are not planning to do any specific research on the impact of the smoke-free legislation on the physical or mental health of mental health service users, but is committed to review the impact of the smoke-free law in its entirety within three years of implementation.

Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 17 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 45, *(d)* 46 to 65 and *(e)* 66 years or over who smoke on a regular basis, broken down by sex; what proportion of the total population of each age group these figures represent; and what the equivalent figures were in (i) 2003 and (ii) 1998. [213918]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

The latest information on the prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over in Great Britain, by gender and age group, in 2006 is available from the "General Household Survey 2006: Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006". This information is shown in the following table.

Data on the prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over in England, by gender and age group, for 1998, 2003 and 2005 are available in "Statistics on Smoking: England, 2007", in table 2.2, on page 16. Data are given for those aged 16-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-49, 50-59 and those aged 60 and over. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children aged 11 to 15 in England, who were regular smokers, by gender, for 1998, 2003 and 2006 is available in "Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2006" in table 2.1, on page 38. Equivalent estimates of the number of regular smokers in 2006 among those aged 11 to 15 can be found on page 156, section 5.3. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Table 1: Prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults[1], by age and gender, 2006[2], Great Britain

	All ages	*16-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*60 and over*
All adults (Percentage)	22	20	31	30	25	22	12
Men (Percentage)	23	20	33	33	26	23	13
Women (Percentage)	21	20	29	26	25	22	12
Weighted bases (Thousand)							
All adults	42,639	2,573	2,819	6,660	12,027	6,914	11,646
Men	19,918	1,295	1,270	3,140	5,636	3,337	5,240
Women	22,721	1,278	1,548	3,520	6,392	3,577	6,406
Unweighted bases							
All adults	16,682	815	883	2,373	4,583	2,887	5,141
Men	7,677	392	376	1,053	2,093	1,374	2,389
Women	9,005	423	507	1,320	2,490	1,513	2,752

[1] Aged 16 and over.

[2] Results for 2006 include longitudinal data.

Source:

General Household Survey 2006, Office for National Statistics.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 17 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 45, *(d)* 46 to 65 and *(e)* 66 years and over have sought assistance from smoking cessation clinics in the latest period for which figures are available. [213919]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest data available on the number of people who set a quit date and those who successfully quit smoking at the four week follow up (based on self report) through the NHS Stop Smoking Services are for the period April 2007 to December 2007, which represents quarters 1, 2 and 3 of the 2007-08 period.

This information can be found in the "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April to December 2007" publication in table 2 on page 6, published on 16 April 2008. Data are available for under-18s, 18 to 34-year-olds, 35 to 44-year-olds, 45 to 59-year-olds and those aged 60 and over. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Young People

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to stop children and young people from smoking. [215394]

Dawn Primarolo: Reducing smoking among young people is a priority for the Government. Much has already been achieved in this area, including raising the age of sale of tobacco products, legislation to strengthen sanctions available against retailers who persistently sell tobacco to children and young people and smoking is addressed in the national curriculum and through the Healthy Schools Programme.

Protecting children and young people from smoking is one of four key aspects of the Department's "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" published on 31 May 2008, copies of the consultation have already been placed in the Library. Responses to the consultation will inform the development of a new strategy on tobacco control, which will include action to continue to tackle the uptake of smoking by young people.

Wheelchairs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the new model for the delivery of wheelchair services; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the model. [212081]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As you will be aware, the original intention was to look at community equipment and wheelchair services in parallel. This proved unfeasible due to the need to collate additional data to support any new model for wheelchair provision. The process of collation and analysis of a significant amount of data has now been completed. A decision on the most appropriate way forward, including when to publish the new model, will be taken by the autumn.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcomes have been of the mission in Helmand province in the areas of *(a)* drugs, *(b)* reconstruction, *(c)* winning hearts and minds and *(d)* pacification. [215448]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The UK is providing coordinated military and civilian support to the Afghan government to improve security, governance and development opportunities on a district-by-district basis in Helmand.

We are supporting Afghan counter narcotics institutions to deliver the National Drug Control Strategy, with an emphasis in Helmand where poppy cultivation is concentrated. Following Musa Qala's recapture in December 2007, the Afghan authorities closed down the major drugs bazaar, closed opium processing labs, and seized several tons of opium, denying resources and opportunities to drugs traders and insurgents. Operations continue in collaboration with increasingly capable Afghan counter narcotics forces. In 2008, 2,590 hectares of poppy were eradicated in Helmand. Where security, governance and economic opportunities are improving, such as Lashkar Gah, farmers are growing less opium than they have done in previous years. We are continuing to support Afghan efforts in licit livelihoods and infrastructure. Following last year's record harvest, the UN Office for Drugs and Crime estimates that opium cultivation in Helmand is stabilising.

In Helmand 1,824 water supply and sanitation projects, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), have been completed; over $200,000 in micro-finance loans has been distributed to local community businesses with a repayment rate up to March 2008 of 100 per cent., 50 kilometres of main highway was constructed or resurfaced in 2007 in Helmand through DFID funding; and the legal economy is growing at above the national rate. UK aid towards development work in Helmand includes £9 million of funding for quick-impact projects in 2007-08; a £30 million three-year commitment until 2009 to support agriculture and rural development; and funding for UN Habitat to work in Lashkar Gah on improving municipal services.

Security remains challenging, particularly in the South and East. Since June 2007, the number of direct attacks on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-led International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan National Security Force has reduced by half, although the number of asymmetric attacks has increased, for example by improvised explosive devices. The town of Musa Qala, a symbolic Taleban stronghold only three years ago, is now under government control following an Afghan-led operation last December. A kandak (battalion) in the Afghan National Army covering Helmand has achieved Capability Milestone One—meaning that it is judged (by internationally set standards) to be capable of planning and running operations independently. Improved security has increased commercial traffic across province lines and several private bus operators are now running regular passenger services between Helmand and Kandahar. We are working very closely with Governor Mangal to continue progress on security as well as reconstruction across the province.

All of this visible reconstruction work combined with a strengthened local governance structure serves to improve public confidence. Across Afghanistan recent polls show the majority of Afghans continue to feel that their country is headed in the right direction. Support in Afghanistan also remains high for the presence of international forces, with national approval ratings in November 2007 of between 60 per cent. (Environics Research Group) and 67 per cent (BBC).

Crimes Against Humanity

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 82W, on crimes against humanity, whether Rose Kabuye, the Rwandan Director-General of State Protocol, was a member of the delegation accompanying President Kagame on his visit to the UK in May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [215281]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The Government can confirm that Rose Kabuye, the Rwandan Chief of State Protocol, was a member of the delegation accompanying President Kagame on his visit to the UK in May 2008.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211689]

Meg Munn: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213309]

Meg Munn: The following data relate to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in each of the last five years:

	Number of recipients of bonuses	*Percentage of staff who received a bonus*
2007	5,070	89
2006	5,097	83
2005	5,094	83
2004	[1]	—
2003	5,085	87

[1] Unavailable

The largest single payments made in each year are:

	Payment (£)
2007	16,000
2006	25,500
2005	13,000
2004	12,000
2003	15,000

The FCO uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable, performance-related bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest individual bonus for these grades in 2007 was £1,850.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the senior management structure/senior civil service (SMS/SCS) follow a framework set for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office. We use variable pay for SMS/SCS staff to reward excellent individual performance and achievement during the year. Variable pay decisions are based on a judgment by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. Whitehall Departments were authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 7.6 per cent. of their SMS pay budget on non-consolidated bonuses for senior staff in 2007. 25 per cent. of senior staff will not receive a bonus in 2008.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures his Department has adopted to support the Government's strategy on reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS in other countries. [214484]

Meg Munn: Following the launch of the UK AIDS strategy on 2 June, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has asked its overseas missions to promote the aims of the strategy and help its implementation by building international political support for its objectives through their respective host governments. This can be achieved, for example, by advocating leadership on comprehensive HIV prevention.

The FCO's core skills of negotiation, lobbying and advocacy are providing an important contribution to the Government's HIV/AIDS strategy globally. In countries where the Department for International Development (DFID) is present, FCO posts can lobby and influence within the broader context of our bilateral relationship. Where DFID has little or no presence, our missions constitute the main access point to decision-makers and opinion-formers. This access is particularly important in advance of major international negotiations and meetings.

For example at our UN mission in Geneva, our ambassador has already promoted the aims of the UK strategy with the UN AIDS Executive Director, Dr. Peter Piot.

Embassies: St. David's Day

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK embassies held a St. David's Day event in 2008. [215429]

David Miliband: 13 of our embassies held a St. David's day event in 2008.

A further seven subordinate posts overseas held a St. David's day event in 2008.

In addition to this, 11 of our embassies or posts overseas publicised St. David's day via their website and media contacts.

Eritrea: Ethiopia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Governments of *(a)* Iran, *(b)* Libya and *(c)* Qatar on measures to prevent the financial support they provide to the Eritrean Government being used in conflicts on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border. [214574]

Meg Munn: We are working hard with the UN and other international partners to resolve the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute and bring peace and stability to the region. We take every opportunity to raise the situation with countries that have an interest there.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with Iran, Libya or Qatar about financial support to the Eritrean Government and there are currently no plans to do so.

European Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conditions must be satisfied by appointees to the European Commission; and what assessment he has made of the compliance of Jacques Barrot's appointment with those conditions. [215346]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 July 2008]*: Conditions for the appointment of Commissioners are set out in Article 213 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. This provides that "the Commissioners shall consist of 27 Members, who shall be chosen on the grounds of their general competence and whose independence is beyond doubt".

Before undertaking their duties, Commissioners are expected to take an oath and also adhere to a conduct," as set out at:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/code_of_conduct/code_conduct_en.pdf.

The issue of Mr Barrot's appointment was fully discussed in the European Parliament in 2004 at the time of him being appointed Commissioner for Transport. The European Parliament Legal Service concluded at the time, in their opinion of 25 November 2004, that there were no grounds to oppose Mr. Barrot's appointment.

We are confident that Mr. Barrot will make a valuable contribution in his new role as Commissioner for Justice.

Freedom and Security and we look forward to working with him over the coming months.

Honours: Foreigners

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which individuals who are not UK citizens were awarded honours in the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008; and what the *(a)* date of announcement, *(b)* honour in question and *(c)* reason for the award was in each case. [216409]

Meg Munn: As the information requested is lengthy, I will arrange for it to be placed in the Library of the House and for a copy to be sent directly to the hon. Member. Honorary awards to citizens of countries where Her Majesty The Queen is not Head of State are not formally announced. The date of Her Majesty The Queen's formal approval therefore has been included, rather than any date of announcement.

The list of recipients of honorary awards, starting from January 2007, is now on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/honours/honorary-awards.

Irish Language

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* was spent in the most recent period for which figures are available and *(b)* is planned to be spent through the British Council's grant-in-aid in support of the promotion of the Irish language outside the UK; and what recent discussions there have been between the Council and the Northern Ireland Executive on such promotion. [214624]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council has not spent grant in aid on the promotion of the Irish language outside the UK in the recent past, nor does it have plans to do so in the foreseeable future.

There is limited demand outside the UK for Irish language teaching. Where the opportunity does arise within our programmes for the teaching and development of the Irish language, the British Council has responded. This can be seen in the provision of Irish Language Assistants to schools in Northern Ireland and the support of the Primary Languages Strategy on behalf of the Department of Education Northern Ireland as well as the facilitation of teachers of Irish to attend professional development opportunities in the Republic of Ireland.

The British Council has discussed its priorities for 2008-11 with officials in the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland but has not specifically discussed the promotion of the Irish language with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Maldives: Elections

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to promote free and fair Presidential elections in the Maldives in September. [214467]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 374W, to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson).

Nuclear Free Zones

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors are taken into account when deciding whether to sign the protocols of nuclear-free zones. [215706]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The UK supports the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines in annex I of the report of the 54th session of the UN Disarmament Commission (http://disarmament.un.org/undiscom.htm). These principles and guidelines state, for example, that the nuclear-weapon states should be consulted during the negotiations of each treaty and its relevant protocol/protocols.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which protocols of nuclear-free zones the UK is a signatory. [215707]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The UK has signed and ratified the protocols to the treaties of Tlatelolco (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Raratonga (South Pacific) as well as the relevant protocols of the treaty of Pelindaba (Africa), collectively giving treaty-based negative security assurances to over 100 countries.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to sign the protocols of those nuclear-free zones for which the UK is not yet a signatory. [215708]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The UK supports the principle of both the South-East Asia and Central Asia nuclear weapon-free zones. The UK continues to seek ways to overcome the difficulties that pertain to the treaties of Bangkok and Semipalatinsk so that we can ratify protocols to these treaties. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials continue to have discussions with representatives of members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Central Asian States (the C5) to resolve these difficulties.

Overseas Visits: Security

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost has been of *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* flights for the employment of overseas security officers as a consequence of staff turnover of personnel employed under the control risk contract in each year since the contract was let; and if he will make a statement. [209811]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office contracts Control Risks for the provision of an agreed level of service. The costs of accommodation and flights are included in the contract.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to encourage democratic developments in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [214430]

Dr. Howells: To support a sustained democratic transition in Pakistan, we are talking to leaders from across the political spectrum. The recent visits by my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary, have emphasised to Pakistan's leaders the UK's commitment to promoting good governance, strengthening democratic institutions, electoral reform and combating violent extremism and terrorism. We are encouraging Pakistan's political leaders to work together and take a comprehensive approach to development, governance and security so that a more prosperous and stable society based on parliamentary democracy and the rule of law can be established.

We are also supporting the institutional capacity needed for a stable democracy to take root in Pakistan. The Department for International Development provided £3.5 million to support the recent electoral process in Pakistan. This programme supported the administrative capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan and civil society work to increase turnout and educate voters. The UK supported and participated in the EU Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) in February 2008 and will support the electoral reforms recommended in the EUEOM final report. UK development assistance to Pakistan will double to £480 million over the next three years. This assistance includes work to strengthen civil society and the capability of government and help to improve government accountability and responsiveness.

We are also working with EU partners to enhance the EU's commitment to Pakistan to provide assistance and cooperation on economic development and trade, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, human rights, migration and education.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on Pakistan: terrorism, (1) what steps the Government took in the cases of the four British nationals who alleged mistreatment; and what the result of this action was in each of the four cases; [214990]

(2) how the Government learned of the detention in Pakistan of the four dual British/Pakistani nationals. [214991]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: In the cases of the four British nationals who alleged mistreatment while in Pakistani custody, only three have asked us to pursue these allegations. In all three cases, we have raised the allegations officially with the Pakistani authorities. We have yet to receive any official response from the Pakistani authorities.

We were informed of the detention of the four dual British/Pakistani nationals either by family members or by foreign officials. In all cases, we officially asked the Pakistani authorities for confirmation of their nationality and of their detention. As Pakistani nationals detained in Pakistan, the authorities were under no obligation to inform us of their detention.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the Albanian statement at the recent Islamic Conference in Kampala on bringing about a negotiated settlement in Darfur. [214465]

Meg Munn: The Kampala Declaration, issued at the conclusion of the 35th Session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers on 24 June called upon

> "Member States to contribute to making the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur and other related initiatives more effective in the stabilisation efforts in Darfur, within the framework of an agreement between Sudan and the UN and the AU".

The UK continues to support the UN/AU-led political process. A negotiated solution is the only way to achieve sustainable peace and security in Darfur. We talk regularly to international partners, including OIC countries, about how to move the political process forward.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number of Afghan refugees who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries; and what estimate he has made of the number who have sought refuge in each such country since 2001. [213378]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that there are currently 2,986,509 Afghan refugees worldwide, the majority of whom are based in Pakistan, Iran and India.

UNHRC has provided the following breakdown of figures for each country showing the refugee population at the end of 2006 to the end of March 2008.

Country	*2006*	*2008*
Pakistan	2,153,088	1,905,309
Iran	940,183	932,782
India	9,472	9,447

UNHCR is responsible for monitoring the number of Afghan refugees. For more information, please see www.unhcr.org

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the humanitarian needs of refugees from Afghanistan along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border; and what support his Department has provided to meet such needs since 2001. [213379]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) liaises closely with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees

(UNHCR) and the Government of Afghanistan who continue to monitor the humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The UNHCR does not currently have access to the Afghanistan Pakistan border due to insecurity; however we know that around 1.9 million refugees currently are registered in Pakistan and that the majority of refugees from Afghanistan are not based in the border area.

DFID continues to monitor UNHCR / Government of Afghanistan figures and the situation closely. DFID does not currently provide direct funding to support IDP and refugee issues, but programmes are currently well funded by other donors and agencies. DFID Afghanistan, with UNHCR and other donors, is planning to undertake an assessment of the overall humanitarian situation in the following months to inform future support programmes.

Afghanistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate of the number of internally displaced people in Afghanistan is; and if he will make a statement. [213375]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that there are currently 176,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan. Of this number, approximately 31,500 are estimated to be displaced due to conflict. Other displacement has been caused by unresolved ethnic or tribal conflict, landlessness, property disputes, drought or loss of livestock.

Africa: Food

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the likely availability of basic food stuffs in *(a)* Ethiopia, *(b)* Eritrea and *(c)* Nigeria in the next three months; and if he will make a statement. [215399]

Gillian Merron: Recent Government figures in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Nigeria have indicated an increase in food production in these three countries, which should lead to greater availability of basic foodstuffs, in particular cereal based products.

Ethiopia has reported a 49 per cent. increase in food production over the last year. However, in spite of this apparently high domestic availability, prices have risen substantially and Government food stocks are reported to be low. In response, it has reduced taxes on food grains and flour, provided subsidised wheat and oil to poor urban dwellers, and stated its intention to import 150,000mt of wheat for use as subsidised food. The minor belg harvest (end of June), which accounts for 10 per cent. of the country's total harvest, has been reported to be very poor this year and there is evidence of increasing malnutrition in some areas of the country.

Both Eritrea and Nigeria have reported food production increases (22 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively), but food prices are expected to remain high, with market supplies limited. Conditions in Nigeria have slightly improved with the onset of the 2008 main rainy season increasing the likelihood of a good harvest starting in September.

No information is available on official steps being taken in Eritrea to address the food access problems. However, even with Eritrea's recorded increase in food production for 2007 taken into account, the country's food needs are approximately double the local production, making importation and consequent exposure to high international prices inevitable.

The next three months will remain critical for many areas across these countries and across Africa as a whole. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to monitor the situation closely and stands ready to respond where needs are evident.

Africa: Foreign Investment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department implements that encourage foreign direct investment companies in Africa to use the Global Compact or OECD Guidelines. [215631]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are a strong supporter of responsible business behaviour and therefore promotes the adherence to the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and the objectives of the UN Global Compact. The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) promote the OECD Guidelines to UK based companies. For example, DFID has supported the OECD web portal to promote the Risk Assessment Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones, and the 2008 Corporate Responsibility conference at Chatham House, where the OECD Guidelines were discussed.

CDC

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means CDC disburses funds; and whether it invests in private companies. [215630]

Mr. Malik: CDC is a development finance institution, operating as a fund-of funds investor in private sector businesses in the developing world where scarcity of long-term risk capital is a significant constraint on business and economic growth.

CDC does not invest directly in businesses, but works through fund managers. CDC commits capital to fund managers operating in developing countries who understand the local business environment. The fund managers then invest CDC's (and others') capital in private companies in developing countries. In committing capital to funds, CDC needs to be mindful of the requirement set by UK Government that all of the investments made with its money must be in businesses in developing countries, and 70 per cent. must be in businesses in the poorer developing countries (those with a per capita annual income of less than US $1,750).

China: Earthquakes

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to China for the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Guangdong province; and if he will make a statement. [215402]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government have not provided any assistance to Guangdong province. Guangdong is China's richest province and has not needed international assistance following the flooding that has occurred.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213403]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has two sites making up its UK headquarters: one in London and the other in East Kilbride, near Glasgow.

Under the Lyons Review, DFID had a specific commitment to relocate 85 posts from London to East Kilbride from 2004 onwards. We achieved this target by March 2006, when a total of 88 posts had been relocated. The breakdown by financial year is as follows:

	Number of posts
2003-04	5
2004-05	40
2005-06	43

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215236]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The total amounts claimed in expenses by special advisers in the Department for International Development (DFID) for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2006-07	1,008.42
2007-08	1,085.22

Details of expenses claimed in previous years could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

DFID's procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the staff handbook and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The Code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Developing Countries

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to liaise with the International Monetary Fund on the formulation of policy on developing countries. [215632]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) to agree UK views on how the IMF can best assist poor countries. Currently, we are working to ensure the IMF provides appropriate assistance to help countries cope with the effects of recent food and oil price increases, and to make its lending facilities more accessible and relevant to the needs of poor countries. DFID country teams also engage with IMF staff on the details of IMF programmes in their respective countries.

HMT publish an annual report on the UK's engagement with the IMF, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what performance-based funding models are used by his Department to determine the pattern of distribution of its AIDS-related funding. [215416]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's (DFID) own resources are allocated through an Economic Resource Allocation Model, which directs funds to the poorest countries and is based on need. DFID does not use performance-based funding models to determine the pattern of distribution of its AIDS funding. However, when DFID is designing a project or programme of support, an assessment is made of institutional and/or country performance and effectiveness as part of the design process. Specific recipients of UK support such as the Global Fund, have a strong performance-based funding approach in place.

DFID is currently developing performance-based funding proposals with UNAIDS, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) designed to drive and reward better performance and results. This will have a bearing on our future core funding levels to these agencies.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration of the greater involvement of people living with AIDS principle will be made in the implentation of the Government's AIDS strategy. [215638]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are committed to the principle of Greater Involvement of People Living With HIV and AIDS, and we will seek to put this principle into action and work with People Living With HIV in implementing actions in support of "Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world".

The Department for International Development (DFID) supports global and national networks of People Living With HIV and affected communities, such as the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Community of Women Living With HIV (ICW) and the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA). This has helped to strengthen their leadership and meaningful involvement in the AIDS response.

Developing Countries: Security

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the effectiveness of security institutions, including police, in poor countries. [216043]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently committed to spending £135 million on security and access to justice programmes in 13 countries around the world. These programmes seek to improve the quality of security and justice service delivery to the populations of developing countries. Our programmes build both effectiveness and accountability by strengthening the capacity of civilian institutions to provide effective management and oversight. For example, in Sierra Leone, DFID has supported the creation of the Office of National Security, a civilian-led organisation that co-ordinated the security sector's role in Sierra Leone's free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections held last year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of corruption in the security forces of poor countries. [216044]

Mr. Thomas: Reducing corruption and improving governance and accountability for budgets in security forces forms an important part of the Department for International Development's (DFID) work to improve security and access to justice for the poor. DFID is currently committed to spending £135 million on security and justice programmes in 13 countries. Many of these programmes aim to strengthen overall management of security institutions, which helps drive out corruption. Some also include a specific component aimed directly at reducing corruption. For example, DFID is currently working with Ugandan officials to improve procurement systems and thereby reduce the potential for corruption in the defence ministry.

DFID also funds the non-governmental organisation Transparency International (UK), which works to reduce corruption by increasing openness and oversight of defence and security equipment procurement in developing countries around the world.

Drugs: Crime

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking with the Foreign Secretary to enhance co-ordination between the Foreign Office's Drugs and Crime programme and his Department's work to advance harm reduction. [215481]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government published their policy position on harm reduction in 2005 to ensure a co-ordinated, collaborative UK approach. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Home Office are working together to improve the international environment for harm reduction. This will include advocating for a stronger emphasis on harm reduction at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Narcotic Drugs in 2009.

International Monetary Fund: Managers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage the International Monetary Fund to establish a ministerial council. [215602]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have been formulating and building support for its agenda for the reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), following the successful conclusion of the Quota and Voice reform debate. The Chancellor set out the key principles of this agenda at the time of the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee in April, with the aim of building momentum towards a reformed institution that is sufficiently flexible to adapt to the global issues of the 21st century, and one that has a strengthened political process at its heart to lock in the commitment of its membership to multilateral cooperation. The Government recognise that activation of the IMF Council would represent a significant step towards a genuinely strengthened political process, and will continue to engage the IMF and other Governments to secure this objective.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's employees, other than those engaged locally hold language qualifications in *(a)* Arabic, *(b)* Farsi, *(c)* Dari or Pashto, *(d)* Mandarin, *(e)* Swahili and *(f)* Japanese. [215295]

Gillian Merron: Details of specific language qualifications held by staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) are not readily available. Such details could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the organisation.

Quota and Voice Reform

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proposals are included in the Quota and Voice reform that was agreed to by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund. [215599]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The recently agreed International Monetary Fund (IMF) Quota and Voice reform package included proposals for a 5.4 per cent. shift in voting shares from over-represented to under-represented countries, and led to 135 countries receiving an increase in voting share, in part reflecting the tripling of basic votes to enhance the voice of low-income countries; and for the two African constituencies to each appoint an additional Executive Director. The Government supported this reform, as it makes significant progress towards a better reflection of countries relative weights on the world stage, enhances the voice of developing countries, and contributes towards a more legitimate and effective IMF.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of distribution of humanitarian aid in Zimbabwe. [210090]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 4 June, the Government of Zimbabwe suspended the activities of all NGOs and private and voluntary organisations (PVOs). The UN can still operate but many of its programmes including much of its food aid are delivered through NGOs so distribution of relief has been seriously affected.

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that around 1.5 million people are being affected by the Government's suspension of NGO activity in Zimbabwe. If the suspension extends into July and beyond, this number will rise. The longer the suspension goes on, the more serious the impact on relief efforts. The World Food Programme's main feeding programme is due to scale up from August and should reach around 4 million people at the height of the hungry season in early 2009. Absence of large scale feeding programmes in the second half of the year could lead to high levels of malnutrition and increased mortality.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Network

10. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for the future of the post office network; and if he will make a statement. [215952]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have committed a funding package of £1.7 billion to 2011 to modernise and reshape the post office network and to put it on a more stable and sustainable footing, providing national coverage of around 11,500 post office outlets underpinned by the Government's access criteria.

13. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will make a statement on the future of the post office network; [215956]

19. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future of the post office network. [215964]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have committed a funding package of £1.7 billion to 2011 to modernise and reshape the post office network and to put it on a more stable and sustainable footing, providing national coverage of around 11,500 post office outlets underpinned by Government set access criteria.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future of the post office network. [215957]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have committed a funding package of £1.7 billion to 2011 to modernise and reshape the Post Office network and to put it on a more stable and sustainable footing, providing national coverage of around 11,500 post office outlets underpinned by Government set access criteria.

Post Office Closures

11. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for further consultations on the post office branch closure programme. [215953]

Mr. McFadden: Up to 1 July, Post Office Ltd has published and put out to local public consultation 34 area plans. A further seven area plans are still to start local public consultations. The programme is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the application of the Government's criteria for deciding post office closures. [215963]

Mr. McFadden: I have regular discussions with Post Office Ltd. (POL) about a range of post office network issues, including closures under the company's network change programme and the application of the Government's access criteria. To date, the company is exceeding all the national access criteria set by Government. On completion of its network change programme, POL will retain 689 post office branches in Greater London, ensuring that 99.9 per cent. of the population will either see no change to the post office they currently use or remain within one mile by road of an alternative branch.

Fuel Poverty

12. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of fuel poverty of increases in gas and electricity prices forecast to occur before the end of 2008. [215955]

Malcolm Wicks: Any price increases will put upward pressure on the numbers of households in fuel poverty, the specific impact can not be estimated as the Department does not forecast retail energy prices.

The Government have a range of measures to help with fuel bills.

Severn Barrage

14. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the Severn barrage tidal power feasibility study. [215958]

Malcolm Wicks: I am in touch with a large range of stakeholders on the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study—which looks at all tidal range technologies, including barrages and lagoons. These stakeholders include potential developers, local government, local businesses and environmental organisations. I also chair a parliamentary forum for all interested MPs, Peers and Welsh Assembly Members.

Power Stations

15. **Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly

Government Ministers on the transfer to them of responsibility for power stations of capacity greater than 50 MW. [215959]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest discussions on this issue concluded some time ago, and the Planning White Paper made it clear that the UK Government do not agree with the Welsh Assembly Government case for changing the devolution settlement in this respect. However, I look forward to working closely with Welsh Ministers on how the new planning regime, to be established by the Planning Bill, can deliver Britain's vital major energy infrastructure to meet the energy challenges of the 21st century.

World Trade Organisation

16. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had on means to achieve progress in the World Trade Organisation's Doha development round. [215960]

Mr. Thomas: The Government continue to work with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to achieve an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round in 2008. Pascal Lamy, the Director General of the World Trade Organisation, recently announced a WTO ministerial in the week of 21 July. We will be working hard to ensure that this ministerial results in an agreement, which will make it possible to secure an overall Doha deal this year.

Energy Prices

17. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects of energy prices on UK competitiveness; and if he will make a statement. [215961]

Malcolm Wicks: Energy prices have risen globally, the UK cannot escape this, and my Department is keenly aware of the pressure on industry from rising input prices.

International price comparisons are complex, showing different pictures among different size categories of consumer. Overall, average industrial gas and electricity prices in the UK are broadly in line with average prices in the EU15.

Actual price differentials vary between sectors, but some energy intensive sectors are under particular pressure, and we are maintaining dialogue with them about this.

Vehicle Registration Plates

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport and manufacturers of vehicle registration plates on the integration into the design of plates of features which prevent theft. [215962]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no discussions between my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Transport, and the manufacturers of vehicle registration plates, on the integration of anti-theft features into the design of registration plates.

In February 2006 the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency—in consultation with number plate manufacturers, the Home Office, the police and companies that test security products—adopted a voluntary standard for theft-resistant number plates. These are more difficult to detach, and cannot be fitted to another vehicle once detached. Theft-resistant number plates and products meeting the standard are currently available through around 300 retail outlets.

Oil Refining

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of UK refining capacity on oil prices. [215944]

Mr. Hutton: There is currently a mismatch between the type of crude oil available and the refining capabilities at a global scale. This has contributed to the rise in crude and oil product prices.

The UK's refining output in 2006 was approximately 2 per cent. of world output according to statistics from the International Energy Agency. Hence, any changes in UK refining capacity are unlikely to have a major effect on global oil prices.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215170]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not hold this information centrally and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214649]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fuels: Fees and Charges

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to mitigate the effects of domestic fuel prices on living costs; and if he will make a statement. [215951]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have a range of measures to help with fuel bills, including grants to improve energy efficiency and the winter fuel payment, to which this year we will add one off payments of £100 for the over-80s and £50 for the over-60s.

Spending on energy efficiency and other measures for the elderly and those on low incomes is expected to be around £2.3 billion during this current spending period.

Origin Marking: Isle of Man

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what response he has made to the Italian objection to the UK application for protected designation of origin and protected geographical indication for Isle of Man Manx Loaghtan lamb. [214154]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

I am pleased to say that, following discussions between DEFRA officials and their Italian counterparts, the Italian objection was withdrawn and the name 'Isle of Man Manx Loaghtan Lamb' was registered as a PDO on 23 April 2008. It is the 37th UK product to be protected and we are continuing to encourage more applications under the scheme.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the operation of the Post Office Card Account on the business viability of Post Office Ltd. [215954]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently managing a competitive tender process for the successor product to the Post Office Card Account and an announcement is expected later in the year. In advance of the procurement decision being announced, it would not be appropriate for the Government to speculate on the possible consequences of the outcome.

Post Offices: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his plans are for the post office network in Greater London; and if he will make a statement. [215947]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. has confirmed that, following its network change programme, it will retain 689 post office branches in Greater London, ensuring that 99.9 per cent. of the population will either see no change to the post office they currently use or remain within one mile by road of an alternative branch.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 July 2008

[The following answers were received for publication on 2 July 2008]

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 61-62W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations, how many contacts were recorded between British forces and insurgents in Southern Afghanistan in each month since February 2008. [211246]

Des Browne: The number of direct engagements (regardless of the instigator) between ISAF forces and insurgents in Helmand Province per month between 1 February and 13 May 2008, the most recent date for which corroborated information is available, are as follows:

2008	*Number of contacts*
February	102
March	127
April	90
1-13 May	47

It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, separately to identify attacks exclusively involving British forces given the multinational nature of forces operating in Helmand Province.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Air Force: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* completed basic training to be a fast jet pilot in each year since 1997. [214379]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of applications received by armed forces careers offices, specifying pilot as preferred career, the total number of personnel who were selected for basic pilot training (all initially considered as potential fast-jet pilots) and those who were later streamed for fast-jet training, for both the Royal Air Force (RAF) and Royal Navy (RN) following the completion of basic training.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
All RAF applications for Pilot	1,676	1,289	1,129	1,159	1,384
Initial Pilot Training (RAF)	167	92	121	133	148
Selected for Fast-Jet Training (RAF)	75	51	46	54	46
All RN applications for Pilot	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Initial Pilot Training (RN)	47	45	35	42	44
Selected for Fast-Jet Training (RN)	7	9	5	9	11
Total number of RAF and RN selected for Initial Pilot Training	214	137	156	175	192
Total number of RAF and RN selected for Fast-Jet Pilot Training	82	60	51	63	57

n/a = Not available.

Data has been obtained from the TAFMIS (Training Administration and Financial Management Information System) computer system which was introduced in 2003. Recruitment data prior to 2003 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Children

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what childcare support is provided to the families of service personnel when they are deployed on operations. [214385]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1022-23W. Although the publication of the MOD childcare policy is now not expected until later in the summer, further work is continuing in this area in preparation for the Service Personnel Command Paper.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops have not been deployed to frontline duties in each of the last five years. [215747]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of service personnel who have not been deployed to frontline duties is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Management: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by AWE plc in each year since 2003. [215793]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by AWE plc in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table. Except for 2003, when different reporting periods were in place, the figures are taken as at the end of March. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

	Manpower level
2003[1]	3,430
2004	3,510
2005	3,640
2006	4,040
2007	4,390
2008	4,690

[1] As at end April.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of providing *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff attached to the (i) European Union military staff, (ii) European Defence Agency, (iii) European Union Military Committee and (iv) other EU institutions in 2007. [214374]

Des Browne: The total cost to the Department of the military personnel and MOD civilian staff attached to the European Union Military Staff, European Union Military Committee and other EU institutions was £1.7 million in 2007.

Military personnel and MOD civilian staff attached to the European Defence Agency (EDA) are paid directly by the EDA from its functioning budget, which covers all of the operating costs of the Agency. The UK's contribution to the EDA's functioning budget was €2.9 million (£2.07 million) in 2007.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214907]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A single food supply contract was let in October 2006, for the supply of food to UK armed forces personnel for "in barracks" feeding in UK and Germany (for personnel not fed under the Pay As You Dine programme) and to UK armed forces personnel serving on operations and some overseas exercises. Other catering arrangements are managed locally by Front Line Commands and other MOD units, and this information is not held centrally.

Over the last five years, the spend against the single food supply contract has been as follows:

Financial year	*Supplier*	*Spend (£ million)*
2003-04	3663	139
2004-05	3663	128
2005-06	3663	139
2006-07	3663/Purple Foodservice Solutions (PFS)	135
2007-08	PFS	145

These figures represent the total value of commercially supplied food including the cost of food, administration and transport.

Approximately 65 per cent. of this is sourced from British suppliers. This percentage varies as a result of seasonality, value for money incentives, weather extremes and import/export restrictions. The country of origin of some products is indeterminate because they are manufactured using a number of ingredients, and other products, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, are sourced seasonally from a variety of countries. It is not possible to break this figure down for the last five years.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214908]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A new food supply contract was let in October 2006. This contract provides for the supply of food to UK armed forces personnel for "in barracks" feeding in UK and Germany (for personnel not fed under the Pay As You Dine programme) and to UK armed forces personnel serving on operations and some overseas exercises. Through this contract, approximately 65 per cent. of food has been sourced from British suppliers. The remaining 35 per cent. of food is sourced from a number of worldwide countries although these vary through the year due to seasonality, availability or market forces.

Further detailed information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fulwood Barracks

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unit or units will occupy Fulwood Barracks when Five General Service Medical Regiment leaves them. [214790]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fulwood Barracks is currently home to HQ 42 (North West) Brigade and Five General Service Medical Regiment.

The restructuring of Five General Service Medical Regiment will result in one Regular Company from both 253 Medical Regiment (V) and 254 Medical Regiment (V) being based at Fulwood Barracks from April 2009.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Harrier, *(b)* Tornado and *(c)* Typhoon aircraft are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose. [214361]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of Typhoon, Tornado GR, Tornado F3 and Harrier aircraft that are in service, in the Forward Available Fleet (FAF) and considered Fit For Purpose (FFP) are detailed in the following table. FAF aircraft are those that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included.

Aircraft defined as FFP are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date; this does not include aircraft undergoing short-term forward maintenance and other minor works. The FAF and FFP figures shown are the average for the financial year to end May 2008, and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Number in service as at 31 May 2008	*Average number of aircraft in Forward Available Fleet*	*Average number of aircraft Fit for Purpose*
Typhoon	49	35	32
Tornado GR	138	99	69
Tornado F3	76	49	41
Harrier GR7/9	76	50	38

Since the average FFP data was last collated on 31 May 2008, one Harrier aircraft has been lost in an accident. Therefore the total fleet figure for Harrier reduced to 75 as from 16 June 2008.

Military Attaches

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated savings to his Department are from *(a)* closing the defence sections in (i) Barbados, (ii) Bulgaria, (iii) Finland, (iv) Portugal and (v) Sri Lanka and *(b)* reducing the size of the defence section in India. [214350]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no net savings to the MOD from closing the defence sections in Barbados, Bulgaria, Finland, Portugal and Sri Lanka and reducing the size of the defence section in India. The measures contribute towards offsetting the new external costs incurred by the Attaché network referred to by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 71WS.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 727W, on military attachés, how many overseas *(a)* members of the armed forces and *(b)* departmental civilians formed each defence section in each (i) overseas city and (ii) country in each month since September 2007. [214369]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of members of the armed forces in each defence section by country and city over the period in question.

		Number of members of the armed forces[1] on first day of month									
		2007				*2008*					
Country	*City*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Afghanistan	Kabul	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Albania	Tirana	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Closed		
Algeria	Algiers	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Argentina	Buenos Aires	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Australia	Canberra	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Austria	Vienna[2]	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4
Bahrain	Manama	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bangladesh	Dhaka	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Barbados	Bridgetown	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Brazil	Brasilia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bulgaria	Sofia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Canada	Ottawa	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Chile	Santiago	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
China	Beijing	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Colombia	Bogota	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Kinshasa	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Croatia	Zagreb	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Closed		
Cyprus	Nicosia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	Prague	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Denmark	Copenhagen	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Egypt	Cairo	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Finland	Helsinki	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
France	Paris	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3

		Number of members of the armed forces[1] on first day of month									
		2007				*2008*					
Country	*City*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Georgia	Tbilisi	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Germany	Berlin	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
Ghana	Accra	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Greece	Athens	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
Guatemala	Guatemala City	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Closed	
India	New Delhi	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Indonesia	Jakarta	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Iraq	Baghdad	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ireland	Dublin	2	2	Closed							
Israel	Tel Aviv	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Italy	Rome	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Jamaica	Kingston	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Japan	Tokyo	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Jordan	Amman	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Kazakhstan	Astana	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kenya	Nairobi	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Korea	Seoul	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Kuwait	Kuwait City	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lebanon	Beirut	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lithuania	Vilnius	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Macedonia	Skopje	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Closed	
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Morocco	Rabat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nepal	Kathmandu	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Netherlands	The Hague	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
New Zealand	Wellington	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Nigeria	Abuja	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Norway	Oslo	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Oman	Muscat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Pakistan	Islamabad	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5[1]	5	5
Poland	Warsaw	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Portugal	Lisbon	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Qatar	Doha	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Romania	Bucharest	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Russia	Moscow	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	7	7	7
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Serbia	Belgrade	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sierra Leone	Freetown	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Singapore	Singapore City	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Slovak Republic	Bratislava	1	1	Closed							
South Africa	Pretoria	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Spain	Madrid	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Sri Lanka	Colombo	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sudan	Khartoum	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sweden	Stockholm	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Syria	Damascus	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Thailand	Bangkok	2	2	2	2	2	2	Closed			
Turkey	Ankara	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Uganda	Kampala	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ukraine	Kyiv	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
United States of America	Washington	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	UK Mission to UN New York	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

		Number of members of the armed forces[1] on first day of month									
		2007				2008					
Country	*City*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Yemen	Sana'a	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Zimbabwe	Harare	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

[1] These figures cover all military personnel serving in defence sections, i.e. accredited attachés and military support staff.

[2] Vienna has been established as a regional hub with three attachés based there covering Austria and another six countries on a non-residential basis—Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Switzerland.

[3] One military support staff post was replaced with an extra officer in the role of assistant military adviser in April 2008.

The following table shows the number of departmental civilians in each defence section by country and city over the period in question; where there is no entry for a country there have been no departmental civilians in the defence section at any time during the period.

		Number of departmental civilians at post on first day of month									
		2007				2008					
Country	*City*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Argentina	Buenos Aires	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Brazil	Brasilia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Canada	Ottawa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Cyprus	Nicosia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Czech Republic	Prague	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
France	Paris	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
Germany	Berlin	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Greece	Athens	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
India	New Delhi	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Israel	Tel Aviv	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Italy	Rome	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Jordan	Amman	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poland	Warsaw	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Serbia	Belgrade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Singapore	Singapore City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Slovak Republic	Bratislava	1	1	Closed							
United States of America	Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Over this period changes to the Defence Attaché network have been implemented as stated in the written ministerial statement issued by the Secretary of State for Defence on 17 September 2007. These changes are:

> Defence Sections have been closed in Albania, Croatia, Guatemala, Ireland, Macedonia, Slovakia and Thailand.
>
> Attaché numbers have been reduced by one in Argentina, Egypt, France, Greece, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine.
>
> A Defence Section has been opened in Kabul, Afghanistan and an additional adviser has been deployed in Islamabad, Pakistan.
>
> Vienna has been established as a regional hub with three attachés based there covering Austria and another six countries on a non-residential basis: Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

Changes to support staff have also been implemented over this period. Types of measure implemented were: deletion of military support staff posts; replacement of military support staff with departmental civilians; replacement of military support staff with locally-employed civilians; deletion of departmental civilian posts; and replacement of departmental civilians with locally-employed civilians.

Monuments: Vandalism

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of vandalism of one of his Department's *(a)* war memorials and *(b)* listed historic buildings have been reported in the last 12 months. [214358]

Derek Twigg: There are no recorded cases of vandalism of listed or scheduled war memorials on the defence estate in the last 12 months. Records on the causes of repairs to listed historic buildings maintained by the Department are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not have responsibility for the maintenance of public war memorials and therefore does not have any records in respect of vandalism in respect of those memorials.

Shipping: Sales

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been sold to other countries in each year since 1997. [214346]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships sold on a Government-to-Government basis since 1997 are set out in the following table:

Date of the contract of sale	*Name of ship*	*Sold to*
FY 1997-98	HMS Plover	Philippines
	HMS Peacock	Philippines
	HMS Starling	Philippines
FY 1998-99	HMS Unseen	Canada
FY 2000-01	HMS Bicester	Greece
	HMS Orkney	Trinidad and Tobago
FY 2001-02	HMS Berkeley	Greece
	HMS Orwell	Guyana
FY 2002-03	HMS London	Romania
	HMS Coventry	Romania
	HMS Shetland	Bangladesh
	HMS Alderney	Bangladesh
	HMS Anglesey	Bangladesh
	HMS Lindisfarne	Bangladesh
	HMS Guernsey	Bangladesh
	HMS Sheffield	Chile
FY 2005-06	HMS Marlborough	Chile
	HMS Norfolk	Chile
	HMS Grafton	Chile
FY 2006-07	HMS Sandown	Estonia
	HMS Bridport	Estonia
	HMS Inverness	Estonia
FY 2007-08	RFA Sir Galahad	Brazil

Suez: Navy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 424W, on Suez: Navy, on what basis his Department's historic Royal Navy personnel records are organised. [214097]

Derek Twigg: Historic records for Royal Navy ratings and officers are archived on behalf of the Ministry of Defence by TNT Archive Services in Swadlincote, Derbyshire. For ratings, the records consist of a Central Record index card for each individual and for officers, there are individual personnel files.

For an applicant to receive the Canal Zone clasp, the individual's record must be retrieved from the archive facility and the application assessed to determine whether the required 30 continuous days service, on a vessel that has been assessed as qualifying for the award, was achieved. A record of those who have received the award is held electronically at the Ministry of Defence Medal Office at Innsworth.

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average annual maintenance cost of one Type 45 Destroyer. [214345]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have not yet reached the main decision point for the contract to provide in-service support for the Type 45 Destroyers and the associated costs have yet to be fully determined.

Type 45 Destroyers: Procurement

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he had with his French counterpart before announcing the cancellation of the procurement of the seventh and eighth T45 destroyers. [213807]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend has had no discussions with the French Defence Minister relating to the MOD's decision not to take the option to order the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US nuclear weapons are maintained at *(a)* RAF Lakenheath, *(b)* other UK mainland bases and *(c)* UK bases overseas; and if he will make a statement. [215792]

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all US nuclear weapons have been removed from the UK; and if he will make a statement. [215449]

Des Browne: NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63) states that,

> "nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and the North American members of the Alliance. The Alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."

It is NATO and UK policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.

World War Two: Medals

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* veteran badges and *(b)* Bevin Boys badges have been issued to people in the North East. [208582]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format that identifies how many HM Armed Forces Veterans badges and Bevin Boys Veterans badges have been issued in the North East region and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Between May 2004 and 2 June 2008, over 594,000 HM Armed Forces Veterans badges have been issued.

Between March 2008 and 2 June 2008, over 4,000 Bevin Boys Veterans badges have been issued.

[The following answers were received for publication on 7 July 2008]

DEFENCE

7 Regiment Army Air Corps

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role 7 Regiment Army Air Corps performed during the 2007 floods. [216183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A Gazelle helicopter was deployed from 7 Regiment Army Air Corps to Gloucester. It undertook liaison, reconnaissance and observation tasks over the flooded areas for the armed forces and supplemented the capabilities of the civil authorities.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* suicide bombings and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks were recorded in Afghanistan in each month since February 2008. [211248]

Des Browne: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within Regional Command (South), which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan.

Between 1 February and 12 June 2008, there were a total of 176 improvised explosive device attacks recorded in RC(S), and 21 suicide or suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks. These data are broken down per month as follows:

Month	*Total IED attacks (including suicide-borne)*	*Suicide-borne IED attacks*
February 2008	31	4
March 2008	52	1
April 2008	40	8
May 2008	35	4
June 2008	18	4

These figures do not include IED finds with no detonation or IED false alarms. These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the use of vacuum bombs in Afghanistan, including the circumstances under which they are permitted to be deployed; on how many occasions deployment in this theatre has occurred; and how many deaths he estimated have resulted. [214596]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The UK has not procured or deployed any weapon systems designed to deliver effect by means of a vacuum.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of newly deployed troops to Afghanistan have been deployed *(a)* to help build up infrastructure and *(b)* to train and support Afghan security forces; and if he will make a statement. [215401]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Of the 630 new posts announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 677, some 75 will be engaged in helping to rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure. Around a further 155 will deploy to assist in the training and support of the Afghan National Security Forces.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many M-WMIKS vehicles are in Afghanistan. [216517]

Des Browne: We have deployed a significantly improved version of the standard M-WMIK vehicle to Afghanistan, which has been recently renamed Jackal. I am withholding detailed information on the precise number of Jackal vehicles deployed as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what operational purposes Snatch vehicles are being used in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [216519]

Des Browne: Snatch Land Rovers continue to form an important part of the overall vehicle fleet available to our forces in Afghanistan. Commanders on the ground select the optimum vehicle type for a particular task, weighing up the need for force protection, capacity, mobility, fire power and profile. Snatch will therefore tend to be favoured for tasking in relatively low threat areas for tasks requiring high levels of mobility and a high capacity to transport dismounted troops

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent on purchases of locally produced Afghan food by the armed forces and Government agencies in Afghanistan in the financial years *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; [216660]

(2) what proportion of expenditure on food for the armed forces and Government agencies in Afghanistan was spent on locally-produced Afghan food in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [216661]

(3) how much was spent on food for *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* Government agencies in Afghanistan in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [216712]

Des Browne: No locally produced Afghan food has been procured for British troops by the MOD food supply contractor during this period. Plans are under way however to commission Afghan farmers to grow produce for supply through the MOD food supply contract.

Separate figures for the value of food supplied to British forces and Government agencies in Afghanistan who have been fed through the MOD food supply contract are not available; however, the total sums spent over the last three financial years are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	7.2
2007-08	6.3

Afghanistan: Prisoner Escapes

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who escaped from Kandahar Prison on 13 June have been recaptured; and how many of these were originally captured by British forces. [214377]

Des Browne: Sarpoza Prison is run in its entirety by the Afghan Government, and we have no reason to believe that any of the individuals who escaped originally were captured by UK forces. Operations to recapture escapees from Sarpoza Prison near Kandahar are being led by the Government of Afghanistan, and the Ministry of Defence does not have figures for the total numbers recaptured.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who escaped from Kandahar Prison on 13 June were originally captured by British forces. [214378]

Des Browne: The MOD does not hold detailed records on those individuals being held in Sarpoza Prison near Kandahar either before or after the incident on 13 June, as the prison is run by the Government of Afghanistan. However, we have no reason to believe that any of the individuals who escaped were originally captured by UK forces.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the length of roads *(a)* repaired and *(b)* constructed by the armed forces directly or under their direction in Helmand province in the last two years. [216659]

Des Browne: In the last two years, UK Royal Engineers have repaired, reconstructed or constructed over 40 kilometres of road in Helmand province. This has been achieved by project managing locally employed contractors on behalf of the UK's provincial reconstruction team based in Lashkar Gah.

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department plans to provide to the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool in 2008-09. [216297]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In April 2008 the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pools (the ACPP and GCPP) were merged to form a single combined Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). The CPP is managed jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its budget is voted on separately by Parliament to support the Government's conflict prevention policy in line with the tri-departmental Public Service Agreement (PSA) on conflict.

The CPP is divided into six regional and two thematic programmes, including a dedicated Africa Programme, reflecting priorities set by Ministers through NSID(OD) (the Overseas and Defence Ministerial Subcommittee of the National Security, International Relations and Development Committee). The Africa Programme has been set an initial allocation of £62.5 million for financial year 2008-09 from the total CPP budget of £112 million.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the design of the new aircraft carriers incorporates podded propulsion. [216991]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The design does not incorporate podded propulsion.

Aircraft Carriers: Nuclear Powered Vessels

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will order the construction of the new aircraft carriers to be nuclear powered. [216989]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 255W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock).

Armed Forces: Childbirth

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many babies were born to *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* military families based (i) overseas and (ii) in the UK in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [217003]

Derek Twigg: Data on the number of babies born to service personnel and military families are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Deployment

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel were deployed on operations on the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by location. [216615]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 30 June 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	15,410
of which:	
Afghanistan[2]	7,600
Iraq-	4,300
At sea	1,560
Kosovo	680
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Oman	280
Kuwait	190
Bahrain	80
Bosnia	10
Other	20

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent Defence Analytical Services Agency service voting survey. [216236]

Derek Twigg: Yes.

Armed Forces: Fire Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were deployed during the firefighters' strike in 2002 and 2003. [211962]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the national firefighters' strikes in 2002 and 2003 approximately 19,000 members of the armed forces, drawn from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force were deployed to provide fire cover at the request of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were referred to the Priory Clinic in each year since 2004. [216494]

Derek Twigg: In-patient care for service personnel with mental health problems is provided in specialised psychiatric units under a contract with the Priory Group. An interim arrangement was signed with the Priory Group commencing in December 2003. The full contract, whereby the Priory Group became the nominated provider of in-patient mental health provision, commenced on 1 April 2004.

The data requested, up until 31 March 2008, is shown in the following table:

Period	*Number of patients treated*
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	58
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	321
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	351
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	306
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	289

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of single living accommodation units *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas are in each standard for condition grade. [216074]

Derek Twigg: All Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC) rather than Standard for Condition. GfC is an assessment of the chargeable condition of the accommodation, along with other factors such as the size, location and closeness to amenities. As at March 2008, SLA is at thefollowing grade:

	UK SLA bed-spaces	*Percentage*	*Overseas SLA bed-spaces*	*Percentage*
Grade 1	34,320	25	2,650	12
Grade 2	19,180	14	1,800	8
Grade 3	21,460	16	4,890	23
Grade 4	62,460	45	11,980	56

This Department accepts that not all SLA is of a standard that our Service personnel deserve and we are addressing this. Since 2003, some 26,000 new or improved bed-spaces have been delivered with a further 30,000 planned by 2013.

More generally, over the next decade £8.4 billion will be spent on accommodation.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required number, *(b)* current actual number, *(c)* number fit for purpose and *(d)* percentage shortfall is of each pinch point trade in the armed forces. [214347]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Pinch Point Register is as at Quarter 4 2007-08. Information on the fitness of personnel within each pinch point trade is not routinely held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Navy

Operational pinch point trades	*Liability*	*Shortfall*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified	75	7	9
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	7	4	57
GR7 Harrier Pilots—Lt	35	17	48
Merlin Pilots	112	44	39
Merlin Observers	116	53	46
Merlin Aircrewmen	102	22	22

Royal Navy

Operational pinch point trades	*Liability*	*Shortfall*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Leading Hand Warfare	1,108	459	41
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	26	24
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	173	39	23
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	121	25	21
Able Bodied Diver	136	41	30
Able Rate 1 Seaman	351	54	15
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	754	181	24
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	375	48	13
Leading Aircraft Controllers	75	33	44
Royal Marines Other Ranks	6525	522	8
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	64	18
Cat A Nuclear Watchkeepers	217	53	24
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	56	15	27
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	417	77	18

Army

Operational pinch point trade	*Liability*	*Shortfall*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Infantryman Pte-LCpl	14,615	1,647	11
REME Vehicle Mechanic Pte-Cpl	3,625	493	14
REME Armourer Pte-Cpl	397	80	20
REME Recovery Mechanic LCpl-Cpl	344	128	37
Intelligence Operator—Military Intelligence Cpl-Sgt	690	228	33
RE Clerk of Works SSgt-W01	245	+1	+0.4
RE Mil Engr Fitter Spr-LCpl	466	71	15
RA Gunner LBdr-Bdr	5,048	718	14
Manning Pinch Point Trades			
AMS ITU Nurse Cpl-Capt	121	86	71
AMS Emergency Medicine Nurse Cpl-Capt	101	63	62
AMS Radiologist Maj	4	3	75
AMS Orthopaedic Surg Maj+	13	6	46
AMS Gen Surg Maj+	17	7	41
AMS Anaesthetist Maj+	49	23	53
AMS Gen Med Prac Capt+	153	16	10
AMS Radiographer Cpl+	24	14	58
AMS Registered General Nurse	293	30	10
AMS Operation Department Practitioner Cpl+	95	13	22
RA Unmanned Ariel Vehicle Operator (Level 4) LBdr-Bdr	280	43	15
RE Mil Engr Geo Spr-W02	82	+11	+13
RE Explosive Ordnance Disposal Cpl-SSgt	115	95	17
RE Mil Engr C3S Spr-LCpl	583	+10	+2
RLC Ammo Tech Cpl-SSgt	285	128	45
RLC Postal and Courier Op Pte-Cpl	433	83	19
RLC Chef Pte-LCpl	1,459	93	6
RSigs IS Engr Cpl-Sgt	237	35	15
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin Pte-Sgt	2,610	308	12
CAMUS Musician	300	69	23

Royal Air Force

Operational pinch point trades	*Liability*	*Shortfall*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Officers			
Medical	278	58	21
Operations Support (Intelligence)	233	3	1
Operations Support (Regiment)	267	27	10
Operations Support (Provost/Security)	142	2	1
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	215	25	12
Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service	180	50	28
Manning pinch points			
Administration (Training)	231	31	13
Chaplains	79	19	24
Medical Support	91	11	14

Royal Air Force

Operational pinch point trades	*Liability*	*Shortfall*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Operations Support (Fighter Control)	346	46	13
Other ranks operational pinch point trades			
Weapons System Operator (Air Load Master)	550	100	18
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	67	17	25
Air Traffic Controller (ATC) / Flight Operations Manager (FOM) / Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	1,276	76	6
Fire Fighter	553	73	13
Gunner	1,819	189	10
Movements Operator / Controller	879	19	2
RAF Police	1,278	+72	+6
Staff Nurse (Registered General Nurse)	301	21	7
Manning pinch point trades			
Intelligence Analyst (Communications)	286	46	16
Environmental Health Technician	48	8	17
Radiographer	11	1	9
Mess Manager / Steward	498	38	8
Musician	175	25	14
RAF Physical Training Instructor	517	27	5

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest total manning figures are for *(a)* the Territorial Army, *(b)* the Royal Naval Reserve, *(c)* the Royal Marines Reserves and *(d)* the Royal Auxiliary Air Force; and how many personnel from each category have been mobilised in total for Operations (i) Herrick and (ii) Telic. [214782]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 July 2008]*: The information is as follows:

Latest available manning figures for the volunteer reserves

	Number
Royal Naval Reserve	2,103
Royal Marines Reserve	890
Territorial Army	[1]30,000
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1,403

[1] More accurate data is not currently available for the TA.

Number of mobilisations[1] for operations[2] since 2004 (previous figures not available)

	Number
Royal Naval Reserve	599
Royal Marines Reserve	384
Territorial Army	9,542
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	2,435

[1] This includes a number of personnel who have been mobilised more than once; more than 2,000 personnel have been mobilised more than once, the vast majority of these being specialists mobilised for periods of three months or less.

[2] It is not always possible to separately identify those mobilised for Op Telic in Iraq, or Op Herrick, in Afghanistan. Once mobilised, Reservists may serve in more than one operational theatre, and many support all operations from bases in the UK and elsewhere.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on the operational allowance during the last six month roulement. [216239]

Derek Twigg: The amount spent on operational allowance for the major roulements completed during the last six months in Iraq and Afghanistan was £22,668,886.

Armed Forces: Psychology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* uniformed and *(b)* civilian unfilled posts there were in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Air Force and (iii) Royal Navy for (1) clinical psychologists, (2) psychiatrists and (3) psychiatric nurses at the most recent date for which figures are available; [182410]

(2) how many *(a)* uniformed and *(b)* civilian posts in each of the armed forces for (i) clinical psychologists, (ii) psychiatrists and (iii) psychiatric nurses are vacant. [182411]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the unfilled vacancies in each of the areas requested, as of April 2008.

	Clinical psychologists[1]	*Psychiatrists*	*Psychiatric nurses*
Army	—	9	0
RAF	—	2	0
RN	—	3	2
Civilian	3	0	0

[1] The MOD has assessed that there is no requirement to employ uniformed clinical psychologists.

Armed Forces: Surveys

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the most recent service Continuous Attitude Surveys. [216237]

Derek Twigg: The most recent Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey is currently in the process of being finalised and will be placed in the Library of the House and on the MOD Freedom of Information website in due course.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 13 May 2008, *Official*

Report, column 1519W, on armed forces training, what proportion of Operational Training undertaken by all members of the Army prior to deployment to Afghanistan takes place on Fighting in Built-Up Areas facilities. [217032]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally.

The use made of these facilities during pre-deployment training depends on the particular Arm and specialist skills of the units in question, the amount of experience they already have of being deployed to built-up environments similar to those that will be encountered on the deployment and the nature of the operational tasks that they will carry out in theatre.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Cougar vehicles delivered to the UK for Mastiff tranche two have been uparmoured; and how many remain to be uparmoured. [216246]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The first vehicles arrived in the UK on 1 July 2008. None have been uparmoured as yet but the intention is that all 174 Cougar vehicles procured for the MASTIFF 2 programme will be.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the reconnaissance variant of the Future Rapid Effects System; and if he will make a statement. [216256]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Good progress has been made on the assessment of the reconnaissance family which is one of the specialist vehicle families within the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES). Following the placement of a number of scoping studies with industry at the end of last year, we have recently commenced a specialist vehicle assessment phase to determine the optimum mix of performance, time, cost and risk involved in delivering the specialist vehicle capability. The assessment phase includes the placement of further study contracts with industry.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many M-WMIKS vehicles were ordered in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how many of these (i) have been delivered to Afghanistan and (ii) will be ready for delivery within (A) three months and (B) six months. [216518]

Des Browne: A total of 130 and 72 Jackal (M-WMIK) vehicles were ordered in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Delivery of all these vehicles is expected to be complete by the end of 2008. However I am withholding information on the specific numbers delivered to Afghanistan as this could prejudice operational security.

Cadets: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost was of *(a)* setting up and *(b)* running a combined cadet force in its first year in a state school as part of his Department's pilot project. [214359]

Derek Twigg: The MOD departmental three year pilot trial of six new CCF's, involves the following schools:

Archers Court maths and technology college, Dover.
Budmouth technical college, Weymouth.
Thomas Deacon academy, Peterborough.
Treorchy comprehensive school, Mid Glamorgan.
Haberdasher's Federation (Hatcham Knight academy), Lewisham.
Walker technology college, Newcastle.

The costs involved in this pilot trial are as follows:

Serial	*Item*	*Costs*[1] *(£)*	
		Start up[2]	*Annual*[3]
1	General equipment, adventure training equipment and stores	16,000	12,500
2	Clothing	8,000	500
3	Rifles and maintenance	16,400	1,000
4	Ammunition	2,500	2,500
5	Paid training days	17,500	17,500
6	Travel and subsistence[4]	2,500	2,500
7	Transport[5]	26,800	5,000
8	Buildings and infrastructure (shared costs)[6]	46,000	1,000
9	Annual CCF grant[7] (covers such things as office equipment, telephones and stationery)	3,700	3,700
10	Total	139,400	46,200

[1] Costs are based on a 120 cadet contingent (the average size of a state school contingent).

[2] Start-up costs are dependent on existing facilities and resources within a school. The costs shown are therefore a combination of both the direct scaled costs for a 120 cadet contingent and average spend for the six new contingents.

[3] Annual costs relate to a relatively stable contingent. If there is a high turnover of cadet force adult volunteers (the cadet instructors) or cadets costs will increase.

[4] Travel and subsistence costs are those refunded to adult volunteers who attend camps and courses.

[5] Initial transport cost is to procure a dedicated minibus with annual running costs, maintenance and insurance thereafter.

[6] Cost of buildings includes storerooms and office space. Also included are the additional costs to the national infrastructure, where known, such as the Cadet Training Centre and the Cadet Adventurous Training Centre.

[7] Annual CCF Grant is a per capita grant from the MOD to cover miscellaneous contingent costs such as office equipment, telephones and stationery.

Not shown are additional costs of cadet training teams, training infrastructure, service transport when used or support from regular units which are mainly shared resources used by all cadet force units.

Canada: Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military exercises have taken place in *(a)* Canada and *(b)* Kenya in each of the last five years and (i) how many troops were involved and (ii) what the length of each exercise was. [216181]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In each of the last five years, the British military has conducted exercises in Canada and Kenya as follows:

	Number of exercises	*Total number of troops involved*	*Total number of weeks*
(a) Canada			
2004	19	7,982	97
2005	14	3,846	71.5
2006	15	4,345	71
2007	11	3,865	63
2008	7	3,040	27
(b) Kenya			
2004	12	3,267	73
2005	10	1,847	52
2006	11	2,575	53
2007	11	2,480	53
2008	4	250	16

Central African Republic: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Russian *(a)* military helicopters and *(b)* civilian contracted helicopters are in use by EUFOR Chad/CAR; and on how many occasions British forces have flown in each. [216177]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Russian military or civilian contracted helicopters currently in use by the EU's military mission to Chad/Central African Republic. Russia has offered tactical transport helicopters to the mission and discussions regarding this offer continue.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's share of the approved budget for EUFOR Chad/CAR is; and how much has been paid as of 30th June 2008. [216178]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1489W, to the right hon. Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane).

The UK has paid £13.9 million as of 30 June 2008.

Cyprus: Air Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much fuel has been purchased for the Royal Air Force in Cyprus in each month of the last two years, broken down by price paid per litre. [216175]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Aviation fuel purchased for the Royal Air Force in Cyprus in the last two financial years is as follows:

Financial year	*Litres*
2006-07	
June 2006	11,497,000
August 2006	13,003,000
January 2007	13,029,000
2007-08	
May 2007	8,894,000
August 2007	9,987,000
December 2007	13,452,000

The price per litre of aviation fuel is commercially sensitive and its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. However, the average price per litre for financial year 2006-07 was 28p and for financial year 2007-08 was 36p, rounded to the nearest 1p.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214721]

Derek Twigg: The requested information is not held centrally or in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residential properties his Department owned in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987, *(c)* 1992, *(d)* 1997, *(e)* 2001 and *(f)* 2005; and what the location of such properties was. [216328]

Derek Twigg: The number of residential properties owned by this Department in the years specified, together with information on their location, is not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many residential properties owned by his Department in England and Wales were sold to *(a)* private developers and *(b)* social landlords in each of the last 10 years, broken down by county; [216341]

(2) how many residential properties his Department has sold in the last two years; what their locations were; to whom such properties were sold; and how much his Department received for each such sale. [216343]

Derek Twigg: A list of the Department's residential properties sold in the UK since 2000, broken down by financial year and location, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Records of residential properties sold before 2000 and the purchaser details and sale prices of all properties sold to the present day are not held centrally and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215375]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 1 July 2008]*: Summaries of MOD expenditure on External Assistance, which includes various types of consultancy, are available in the Library of the House for the years 1995-96 to 2006-07.

The figures for 2007-08 will be placed in the Library before summer recess.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212527]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 196 permanent civil servants in the Ministry of Defence are recorded as having their home as their principal place of work. This figure excludes the trading fund agencies. In addition, staff may work from home on an ad hoc basis with the agreement of their managers. Figures for such discretionary arrangements are not held centrally.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215124]

Derek Twigg: IT contracts can vary from single computers and software licences to major programmes, such as the Defence Information Infrastructure. To confirm all of the IT contracts MOD has entered into in the last two years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lane

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all land and properties in London that his Department *(a)* rents, *(b)* leases and *(c)* owns, indicating in each case whether the property is used by (i) the Territorial Army and (ii) other services. [169372]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held in the form requested and will take time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Tom Brake:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 3 December 2007 (Official Report, column 830W) about land and property that the Department rents, leases and owns in London, indicating whether it is used by the Territorial Army (TA) or other Services. I apologise for the time this has taken.

The table below provides the information requested.

Name	*Holding*
Army Career and Information Office Wembley	Freehold
6-8 Palmer Street	Freehold
Horse Guards Whitehall	Freehold
Old War Office Westminster	Freehold
The Citadel	Freehold
Ministry of Defence Main Building	Freehold
Woolwich BKS	Freehold
Regents Park BKS	Freehold
Hyde Park BKS	Freehold
Wellington BKS	Freehold
Cavalry BKS Hounslow	Freehold
Royal Marine School of Music Kneller Hall	Freehold
Defence Geographic Centre Feltham	Freehold
RAF Kenley	Freehold
RAF Uxbridge	Freehold
RAF Bentley Priory	Freehold
PJHQ Northwood	Freehold
48 Hornton Street	Freehold
West Ruislip/Blenheim Crescent	Freehold
Queen Mary Buildings Westminster	Freehold
Victoria House Westminster	Freehold
Saram House and Latimer House Kensington	Freehold
The Keep Kingston	Freehold
Dagenham ACF	Freehold
Dagenham ATC	Freehold
Barking ACF Hut	Freehold
Barking ATC Hut	Freehold
Barking ATC Store	Freehold
Willesden ACF Hut	Freehold
Wembley ACF Building	Freehold
Wembley ATC Auxiliary Hut	Freehold
Wembley ATC Hut	Freehold
Wembley Nissen Hut Rifle Range	Freehold
Willesden ATC Hut	Leasehold
Cardinal Hinsley College	Hiring
Middx and NW London ACF	Hiring
Edgware TAC	Freehold
Finchley Cadet Centre	Freehold
Copthall School	Hiring
ACF Copthall School	Hiring
Barnet TA Centre	Freehold
Barnet ACF Hut	Freehold
Hendon ATC	Leasehold
New Barnet ATC	Leasehold
Christ's College CCF	Leasehold
Mill Hill School CCF	Leasehold
Queen Elizabeth School CCF	Hiring
Bexleyheath TAC	Freehold
Foxhouse Road Belvedere ACF Hut	Leasehold
Crayford ACF	Freehold
Sidcup ACF	Freehold
Erith ACF	Freehold
Erith ATC	Leasehold
Erith ATC Hut	Leasehold
Welling ATC Hut	Leasehold
Orpington TAC	Hiring
Orpington ACF	Freehold
Orpington Nissen Hut	Freehold
Charles Darwin School ACF	Hiring
Penge ACF	Freehold
The Ravensbourne School	Hiring
Bromley ATC	Leasehold
Langley Park ATC	Leasehold
Penge ATC	Leasehold
Penge Nissen Range	Leasehold
Penge MT Garage	Freehold
Lincolns Inn TAC	Leasehold
Hampstead TAC	Freehold
Bloomsbury TAC	Leasehold

Name	*Holding*
Mitcham Road TAC	Freehold
Croydon Reme Workshops	Freehold
Croydon TAC	Freehold
Croydon College ACF	Hiring
Marlpit Lane TAC	—
Kenley Airfield ATC	Freehold
Waddon Youth Centre ACF	Hiring
Kenley Airfield Enclave ATC	Freehold
The Vale ATC/ACF	Leasehold
Mitcham ATC	Leasehold
St. Joseph's College ACF	Hiring
Royal Russell School CCF	Leasehold
Trinity School CCF	Hiring
Whitgift School CCF	Hiring
Croydon ACF	Leasehold
Elmbridge ACF	Freehold
Reeds School CCF	Free Use
Winchmore Hill ATC	Hiring
Edmonton ATC	Leasehold
Aylward ATC	Freehold
Southgate School ATC	Leasehold
St. Ignatius College CCF	Leasehold
Mercator House	Freehold
Epsom ACF	Freehold
Stephen Woods Centre (ACF Centre)	Hiring
Ealing Cadet Centre	Freehold
Acton TAC	Freehold
Northolt High School CCF	Free Use
St. Benedict's School CCF	Leasehold
Squirrels Lane ATC	Leasehold
Crown Woods School ACF	Leasehold
Charlton ACF	Freehold
Eltham ACF	Freehold
Colfe's School CCF	Leasehold
Honeypot Lane TAC	Freehold
Elmgrove Road ACF	Freehold
Harrow ATC	Freehold
Harrow School CCF	Freehold
Haberdashers' Aske's School CCF	Leasehold
Hornsey TAC	Freehold
Tottenham ACF	Freehold
St. Aloysius College ACF	Leasehold
Highgate School CCF	Hiring
Highgate Old Guard House	Freehold
Northwood Girls College ATC	Free Use
Uxbridge TAC	Freehold
Worship Street TAC	Freehold
Dalston ACF	Freehold
Stoke Newington Joint Cadet Centre	Freehold
City of London School CCF	Hiring
Islington ATC	Leasehold
Hammersmith Road WETC includes ACF/ATC	Freehold
White City Road TAC	Freehold
Fulham TAC	Freehold
Protheroe Road	Leasehold
Rylston Road TAC	Leasehold
London Oratory School CCF	Leasehold
Heston ATC/ACF Centre	Freehold
Feltham ACF	Freehold
Chiswick ACF	Freehold
Hounslow ACF	Freehold
Romford TAC	Freehold
Brittons School ACF	Hiring
Campion School ATC	Leasehold
Campion School ACF, Centre	Licence

Name	*Holding*
Elm Park ATC	Leasehold
Upminster Joint Cadet Centre	Leasehold
TAC Islington	Freehold
Finsbury Barracks TAC	Leasehold
Kensington TAC	Freehold
Iverna Gardens	Freehold
Kingston upon Thames TAC	Freehold
Kingston Grammar School	Leasehold
Kingston-upon-Thames ATC	Leasehold
Tolworth ATC	Leasehold
Hinchley Wood ATC	Leasehold
Camberwell TAC	Freehold
Clapham TAC	Freehold
Brixton TAC	Freehold
Camberwell ATC	Leasehold
ACIO Blackheath, 9 Lee Road	Leasehold
Blackheath TAC	Freehold
Grove Park TAC	Freehold
Catford TAC	Freehold
Northbrook Church of England School	Hiring
Catford ACF	Freehold
St. Dunstan's College CCF	Leasehold
Sutton TAC	Freehold
Merton College ACF	Hiring
Raynes Park High School ATC	Leasehold
Merton Road ATC	Leasehold
Merton ACF	Freehold
Kings College School CCF	Hiring
Morden ATC	Leasehold
Rutlish School CCF	Leasehold
The Cedars TAC	Leasehold
East Ham TAC	Freehold
East Ham Tri Service Cadet Centre	Freehold
East Ham Utilities	Freehold
East Ham Infrastructure	Freehold
Royal Alexandria/Albert School	Hiring
Reigate Grammar School CCF	Leasehold
Ilford TAC	Freehold
Hainault ACF	Freehold
Ilford Joint Cadet Centre	Freehold
Bancroft's School CCF	Leasehold
ACIO Ilford	Leasehold
ACF/ATC Combined Cadet Centre	Leasehold
ACF/ATC Building	Leasehold
Twickenham ACF	Freehold
Richmond ATC	Leasehold
Twickenham ATC	Leasehold
Hampton School CCF	Hiring
Egham ATC	Leasehold
Sunbury ATC	Leasehold
Wyatt Road ACF Centre	Leasehold
Sutton ACF	Leasehold
Carew Manor School ATC (not part of school)	Leasehold
Stanley Park High School ACF	Hiring
Sutton Grammar School CCF	Leasehold
Wallington ACF	Freehold
Sutton ATC	Leasehold
Wilsons Grammar School	Freehold
Walworth TAC	Freehold
The Academy at Peckham	Hiring
Alleyn's School CCF	Free Use
Dulwich College CCF	Leasehold
Haberdashers' Aske's Federation School	Hiring
Highwood Barracks TAC	Freehold
Royal Marines HQ (Highwood Barracks)	Leasehold

Name	*Holding*
Caterham School CCF	Leasehold
Mile End Road TAC	Freehold
Mile End Road Infrastructure	Leasehold
Bethnal Green ACF	Freehold
HMS Wildfire	Freehold
Merchant Taylors School CCF	Hiring
Battersea ATC	Freehold
Merton Road TAC	Freehold
Balham TAC	Freehold
St. John's Hill TAC	Freehold
Lytton Grove ACF	Freehold
Buckhold Road ACF	Freehold
Barnes ATC	Leasehold
Davies Street TAC	Leasehold
Rochester Row	Freehold
Horseferry Road TAC	Leasehold
Westminster City School	Hiring
Torquay Street ATC	Freehold
Whipps Cross TAC	Freehold
Pretoria Road ATC	Leasehold
Walthamstow Academy	Hiring
Forest School CCF	Hiring
Lower Site Green Hill ATC	Freehold
Eton College CCF	Hiring

Note:
Army Cadet Force—ACF
Army Career Information Office—ACIO
Air Training Corps—ATC
Combined Cadet Force—CCF
Territorial Army Centre—TAC

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215538]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213522]

Derek Twigg: In each of the last three years there has been no expenditure on new works of art by the MOD. It is not possible to separately identify the costs of new vehicles from the overall leasing costs of non-operational vehicles operated by the Department. For new furnishings the expenditure in each year is shown in the following table.

New furnishings

	£ million
2005-06	27
2006-07	24.7
2007-08	18.7

These costs represent only the cost of new furniture purchased including office furniture, furniture for messes and barracks, service families accommodation and Ships; other furnishing costs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214130]

Derek Twigg: The retirement age for senior civil servants is decided centrally and is set at age 65. Determination of the retirement age for grades below the senior civil service is delegated to employing Departments and was set by the Ministry of Defence at 65 with effect from 1 April 2006. Departmental regulations reflect the right to request to work beyond the normal retirement age and for such requests to be given proper consideration. UK Defence statistics include detailed breakdowns of the civilian workforce. These show that, against a reducing overall headcount, the numbers of MOD civil servants aged 65 and over have increased as follows:

	Number
1 April 2005	150
1 April 2006	160
1 April 2007	290
1 April 2008	490

Published statistics prior to this date do not contain sufficient age-related detail to give comparable figures and the necessary retrospective research would involve disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215527]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department last updated its euro changeover plan (now known as the euro implementation strategy) on 24 October 2005. I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Gazelle Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the future of 7 Regiment Army Air Corps; [216182]

(2) what the out of service date for the Army Air Corps Gazelle is; and what its replacement is to be. [216257]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Future Gazelle flying activity has been reviewed in successive departmental planning rounds. Under current planning assumptions the out of service date for the Gazelle is 2012; however there will be a significant reduction in Gazelle flying by 2010. The Gazelle is an older aircraft type with limited capability and is not deployed on combat roles. This decision will therefore have no impact on deployed military capability.

Where there is an enduring requirement for the capability currently provided by Gazelle we are exploring arrangements based on leased aircraft.

The decision to bring forward the Gazelle out of service date will lead to the disbandment of 7 Regiment Army Air Corps (Volunteers) (7 Regt AAC(V)) by 1 April 2009. 7 Regt AAC(V) is currently based at Netheravon with a flight each at Shawbury and leuchars. All affected personnel have been informed of the decision.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Saxon armoured personnel carriers are deployed on operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [216484]

Des Browne: There are no Saxon armoured personnel carriers currently deployed in Iraq. I am withholding detailed information on the number of Saxon vehicles deployed in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the then permanent under-secretary at his Department was in taking the decision not to use a competitive process for the contract to meet the battlefield reconnaissance helicopter requirement. [209606]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The decision to use a non-competitive process for the procurement of the Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter requirement was taken by Ministers on the basis of advice from the Department's Equipment Approvals Committee. The then permanent under-secretary did not sit on that committee.

Martyn Compton

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary's reply to the Adjournment debate in Westminster Hall, of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 91-6WH, on Lance Corporal Compton (Compensation), if he will make a statement on *(a)* the compensation and *(b)* the pension payable to Lance Corporal Compton. [216762]

Derek Twigg: It would not be appropriate to comment on an individual case.

Medals

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many administrative errors in the allocation of medals were made in each year since 2003. [216180]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally, and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mi-17 helicopters were in use in the armed forces at the latest date for which figures are available. [216658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Mi-17 helicopters are in use in the British armed forces.

Military Aircraft: Low Flying

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees in his Department deal with complaints from members of the public concerning noise from low-flying military aircraft. [216595]

Derek Twigg: There is a dedicated team of four people in MOD Headquarters (the Low Flying Complaints and Enquiries Unit) who deal specifically with complaints about military low flying. In addition, there are three regional community relations officers (for Wales, Cumbria and Tynedale, and Southern Scotland), each of whom has an assistant, appointed to provide a point of contact in areas which see relatively high levels of military low flying, but where there is no active military flying unit. However, all military establishments will have mechanisms in place to receive and record complaints about low flying, to be passed on to the Complaints and Enquiries Unit for answer.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been received from residents of Angus constituency concerning low-flying military aircraft in each of the last 12 months. [216596]

Derek Twigg: Complaints have been recorded from residents of the Angus constituency over the last 12 months as follows:

	Number
July 2007	3
August 2007	2
September 2007	3
October 2007	1
November 2007	1
December 2007	0
January 2008	0
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	0
May 2008	1
June 2008	1

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence during which hours military jets are authorised to undertake low-flying exercises over Angus constituency. [216597]

Derek Twigg: Angus is within Low Flying Area 14, part of the UK Military Low Flying System, which covers all of Scotland north of the Forth-Clyde region. The UK Military Low Flying system is open for use by fast jet aircraft from 0700 to 2300 local time Monday to Friday. The system is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, and UK public and Bank Holidays. The system in Scotland is additionally closed on Scottish Bank Holidays. Unless specifically authorised for major training events or urgent pre-operational training, fast-jet low flying is not permitted outside the core times given above.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions military jets have taken part in low-flying exercises over Angus constituency in the last year. [216598]

Derek Twigg: We do not hold the information in the form requested. Low flying is recorded in terms of the number of hours flown rather than the number of sorties, broken down by fixed or rotary winged aircraft rather than fast jets specifically; and the information is held for the low flying area in which the activity is booked. The Angus constituency lies within Low Flying Area 14, which covers the whole of Scotland north of the Forth-Clyde region. In 2006-2007, the last year for which the figures have been published, there were 4,372 hours flown by fixed winged aircraft in Low Flying Area 14.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the requirement for trained pilots for all three services has been in each year since 1997; and how many trained pilots entered the services in each year. [216254]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the requirement for trained pilots for the RAF, the Fleet Air Arm and the Army for each year since 2001 and how many trained pilots entered service in each year. Data prior to 2001 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Service	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*205-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Fleet air arm							
Pilot requirement	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Trained pilots entering service	28	41	32	44	31	20	28
Army							
Pilot requirement	76	56	56	61	61	50	55
Trained pilots entering service	41	46	43	41	50	46	45
RAF							
Pilot requirement	138	145	148	152	129	130	126
Trained pilots entering service	120	150	130	140	120	134	128

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215659]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence in London does not purchase the *Morning Star* publication.

MOD units outside London may purchase newspapers under local arrangements. Information on expenditure under such local arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Submarines: Accidents

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether nuclear submarine accident procedures required by his Department are standardised for all ports at which such submarines which have been involved in an accident may berth. [216270]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Onboard procedures are standardised by submarine class and are generic to any location.

Emergency plans for submarine berths are not standardised but are developed, owned and maintained by the locally responsible authority. Where UK legislation is not directly applicable the MOD policy is, as far as possible, to apply UK standards.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that UK nuclear weapons are not susceptible to popcorning, with particular regard to *(a)* their resistance to multiple simultaneous impacts and *(b)* replacing the explosive currently used to surround the plutonium cores; and if he will make a statement. [215791]

Des Browne: The safety of any nuclear warhead is of paramount importance in authorising its inclusion in the UK stockpile. I am satisfied with the safety of the current UK stockpile, which is reviewed continually to ensure acceptable levels of safety are maintained.

For the purpose of safeguarding national security, I am not prepared to comment further on particular aspects of nuclear warhead design.

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216684]

Derek Twigg: Details of the highest 10 payments in settlement of personal injury claims can be found in the Ministry of Defence's Claims Annual Report 2006-07 copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The 2007-08 report is scheduled to be published later this month and once again a copy will be placed in the Library. Records as to whether a claim was contested or uncontested are not kept.

Territorial Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel have been mobilised for three or more tours of duty. [214381]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Available figures indicate that around 360 members of the Territorial Army have been mobilised three or more times since 1999. Given the safeguards built in to the Reserve Forces Act 1996, which limits the time for which reservists may be mobilised, it is very likely that the majority of these soldiers were mobilised for periods of less than the normal operational tour of six months. It is common for medical reservists to be mobilised for operational tours of three months or less, enabling them to be mobilised several times without exceeding the limits placed in the Reserve Forces Act.

Veterans Day

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for grants for the 2008 Veterans Day celebrations have been received. [213008]

Derek Twigg: By 31 May, the closing date for applications for funding for 2008 Veterans Day celebrations, a total of 121 applications had been received. We know that a number of other events are taking place which have not applied for funding.

This year we encouraged organisers planning small scale events to team up to produce more substantial celebrations. The total value of grants awarded has increased.

War Graves: Vandalism

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of vandalism to a war graves site in the UK have been reported in the last 12 months. [214360]

Derek Twigg: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) confirms there have been two reported cases of major vandalism and 14 minor cases at their sites in the UK, in the past 12 months.

TRANSPORT

A453: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when work will begin on upgrading into a dual carriageway the A453 road between Kegworth in Leicestershire and Clifton in Nottinghamshire; and when the work will be completed. [216290]

Mr. Tom Harris: Subject to the satisfactory completion of all statutory procedures, funding being available within the east midlands regional funding allocation for major transport schemes and compliance with the Department's scheme appraisal requirements, construction works on the A453 widening scheme are planned to begin in spring 2010 and to be completed during the winter of 2012-13.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of local authorities in England do not make concessionary bus travel freely available before 9.30 am; and if she will make a statement. [215771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are responsible for the statutory minimum concession. This guarantees free local bus travel throughout England for elderly and disabled people at weekends and from 9.30 am to 11 pm on weekdays. Local authorities are free to offer enhancements to this concession, such as earlier start times, taking into account local needs and overall financial priorities. However, as these enhancements are at local discretion no information is held on them centrally.

Chester Railway Station: Parking

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* Chester City Council and *(c)* the relevant train operating companies on the provision of car parking spaces at Chester station; and if she will make a statement. [215338]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials have met with both Network Rail and Virgin Trains on a number of occasions to discuss the expansion of car parking capacity along the west coast main line, including Chester station. The most recent of these was on 20 June 2008 in Manchester. As a result, Network Rail is now working on the detailed design of a new car park adjacent to Chester station and in turn is in dialogue with Chester city council on planning and highway related issues.

The Department for Transport has been in correspondence with the city council to emphasise the importance of more parking accommodation at this station, as a means of accessing the improved London express service planned for introduction in December this year.

Co-operative Wholesale Society

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates meetings have been held between Ministers and officials from her Department and representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society since 1 May 2005 on the development of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's land within Harborough District; where each meeting took place; and who attended each. [216590]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no meetings since 1 May 2005 between Ministers of this Department and representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society about the development of the society's land within Harborough district.

Officials of this Department have met representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society on six occasions since 1 May 2005:

16 April 2007 at County Hall, Leicestershire

7 January 2008 at County Hall, Leicestershire

12 February 2008 at Department for Transport, Great Minster House, London

15 May 2008 at County Hall, Leicestershire

22 May 2008 at the offices of White Young Green, Leicester and

17 June 2008 at the offices of White Young Green, Leicester.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the conferences hosted by her Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211685]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table lists the conferences hosted by the Department in each of the last two financial years.

Date	*Title*	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	European Marine Accidents Investigators' Forum	4,170
2006-07	Local Operations Annual Strategy Conference	31,032
2006-07	ANPR Conference	966
2006-07	Management Conference	98,500
2006-07	Management Conference	98,500
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	6,919
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	21,437
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	27,104
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	14,014
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	9,402
2006-07	Business Customer Conference	15,703
2006-07	Major Projects Conference 2006	21,464
2006-07	HSE inspectors/HA Project Sponsors' Event	5,000
2006-07	National Conference	72,923
2006-07	Other conferences[1]	71,449
2006-07	Management Conference	4,946
2006-07	Senior Managers Conference	37,000
2007-08	Business Development Advisory Conference	10,928
2007-08	Local Operations Annual Strategy Conference	49,861
2007-08	Learning and Development Conference	7,803
2007-08	Management Conference	39,527
2007-08	Management Conference	42,046
2007-08	Management Conference	40,086
2007-08	Management Conference	41,779
2007-08	Management Conference	126,233
2007-08	Management Conference	48,238
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	21,916
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	17,846
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	15,505
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	20,220
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	22,179
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	32,820
2007-08	Business Customer Conference	20,670
2007-08	INSPIRE Conference	2,000
2007-08	Historic Landscape Conference	6,000
2007-08	Sustainable Development and Climate Change	3,000
2007-08	Smarter Business Transport Stakeholder	6,000
2007-08	Major Projects Conference 2007	23,118
2007-08	Other conferences[1]	75,116
2007-08	Management Conference	100,568
2007-08	Management Conference	2,295.00
2007-08	Management Conference	3,075.00
2007-08	Senior Managers Conference	65,000

[1] These figures are held under only a single accounting code and obtaining the requested data would incur disproportionate costs.

Information on conferences organised by business units based at our London headquarters buildings are not centrally recorded and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214900]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information is not centrally recorded and a departmental response could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, at our main London headquarters building the requested information is as follows:

Country	*Percentage*	*Spend (£)*
Britain	70	211,400
Spain	12	36,240
France	8	24,160
Netherlands	6	18,120
Italy	4	12,080

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to her Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The average cost of employing a press officer in 2007-08 across the central Department and the Executive agencies is estimated to be £46,800 in payroll-related costs.

Press officer activities in most agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. Estimates of full-time equivalent staff numbers and corresponding cost have been used where they can be identified.

For the central Department, overtime and allowance costs are included which are attributable in large part to the out of hours duty press officer service.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in her Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212506]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Transport comprises a central Department plus seven Executive agencies each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding hourly rates has been collected from the central Department and all seven agencies. The data have been split between London and national pay rates, as shown in the following tables:

London

£

	Permanent		*Temporary*	
	Lowest	*Highest*	*Lowest*	*Highest*
PB1	8.23	10.63	7.09	9.75
PB2	9.21	12.37	7.71	11.72
PB3	11.78	14.73	9.58	9.58
PB4	13.30	17.73	10.82	10.82
PB5	17.20	21.57	14.55	14.55
PB6	23.23	26.93	n/a	n/a
PB7	26.76	31.96	n/a	n/a
SCSPB1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCSPB2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCSPB3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

National

£

	Permanent		*Temporary*	
	Lowest	*Highest*	*Lowest*	*Highest*
PB1	6.78	8.33	6.38	7.40
PB2	8.13	10.10	7.88	9.05
PB3	10.37	12.46	9.84	11.86
PB4	12.66	17.37	11.98	14.64
PB5	15.42	21.63	15.06	19.49
PB6	19.31	28.23	19.42	19.42
PB7	24.16	35.62	24.57	24.57
SCSPB1	38.81	38.81	n/a	n/a
SCSPB2	55.72	55.72	n/a	n/a
SCSPB3	68.20	68.20	n/a	n/a

Performance management reviews are in progress and applicable pay awards and bonuses will be finalised by September 2008.

Departmental Planning Applications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications her Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215532]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies have submitted the following planning and licensing applications in the last 24 months.

	Planning applications
Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB)	Nil
DFT Central	Nil
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	The DSA has submitted 19 planning applications in respect of Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs) at the following locations: Ayr, Burton, Colwick (Nottingham), Dundee, Fareham – Daedulus, Guildford, Haverfordwest, Kings Lynn (x2), Leicester, Cardington (x2), Swansea (x2), Taunton, Upminster, Greenham Common (Reading/Newbury), Farnborough, Burgess Hill Managing agents have submitted seven planning applications in respect of other driving test centres on behalf of DSA since April 2007 at the following locations: Portsmouth (Liddiard Gardens), Sutton in Ashfield, Belvedere, Bletchley, Redhill, Sheffield (Handsworth), Ellesmere Port Information prior to this date can be obtained only at disproportionate costs due to a change in agents
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	Nil
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	The GCDA has submitted one planning application in respect of a scanning facility in external parts of its London HQ premises
Highways Agency (HA)	Information is not held centrally and can, therefore, be obtained only at disproportionate cost

	Planning applications
Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)	Nil
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	The MCA has submitted 15 planning applications at the following locations: Bangor, Northern Island (outline planning application), Portrush, Northern Island (outline planning application), Tarbert, Argyle, Scotland (building extension), Cruden Bay, Scotland (new build), St. Boniface Radio Site (radio installation on new mast), MCA HQ, Southampton (generator installation), Whitstable, Kent (window replacement—conservation area), Weston-Super-Mare (building extension), Bideford (fitting out works—grade II listed building), Swanage (new build), Mortehoe (demolition of existing public toilets and new build), Broadhaven (building extension), Bembridge, Isle of Wight (building extension), Folkestone (fitting out works), Poole (refurbishment—grade II listed building)
Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)	Nil
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	Nil
Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA)	VOSA has submitted 14 planning applications at the following locations Newcastle (redesign/modernisation of Goods Vehicle Testing Station—GVTS), Bristol (new GVTS), Chelmsford (redesign/modernisation of GVTS), Shrewsbury (redesign/modernisation of GVTS), Switch Island (upgrade of site and installation of portakabin), South Molton (installation of portakabin), Abingdon (installation of portakabin), Belvedere (construction of additional garage space), Beverley (construction of office extension), Leatherhead (upgrade of site and installation of portakabin), Tormarton (installation of portakabin), Mitcham (installation of portakabin), Carlisle (redesign/modernisation of GVTS), Immingham (change of use to enforcement site and installation of portakabin)

	Licensing applications
Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB)	Nil
DFT Central	Nil
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	DSA submitted four applications for music licences to cover the driving test centres, which play music in the waiting rooms. Licences with both Phonographic Performance Ltd. and Performing Rights Society are obtained each year
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	DVLA's Development Centre holds a premises licence (No: SJ022299) under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the supply of alcohol from the premises. An annual licence fee is paid to the city and county of Swansea council
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)	Nil
Highways Agency (HA)	Information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost
Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)	Nil
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Nil
Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)	Nil
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	Nil
Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA)	Nil

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [215603]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000.

For the central Department the number of staff passes recorded as replaced in the last 24 months is 879. The records kept do not distinguish between cards replaced due to loss or theft and those replaced for other reasons. Lost or stolen passes are estimated to account for approximately 45 per cent. of all replacement passes issued.

For the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency the number of staff passes recorded as lost or stolen in the last 24 months is 195. This figure includes staff passes for the DfT Shared Service Centre.

For the Highways Agency the number of staff passes recorded as lost or stolen in the last 24 months is 139.

For the Government Car and Despatch Agency the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen in the last 24 months is 11.

The Vehicle Certification Agency have recorded that no staff passes were lost or stolen in the last 24 months.

The Vehicle Operator Services Agency, the Driving Standards Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency do not centrally record the number of staff passes reported as lost or stolen as cases are dealt with individually and not recorded in an aggregated form. To collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how long on average her Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215457]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested by the hon. Member is contained in the following table.

	2004-2005	*2005-2006*	*2006-2007*
Number of named day PQs	233	1,085	700
Average number of working days	2.8	3.2	2.5
Number of ordinary written PQs	907	4,548	2,471
Average number of working days	4.1	4.9	4.0

Driving Tests: Facilities

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much she has allocated to building the new multi-purpose driving test centres in *(a)* Kettering and *(b)* England. [216527]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The multi-purpose test centre (MPTC) in Kettering is being built by a private developer. Driving Standards Agency has a capital commitment of £157,000 net for construction and fees.

The capital funding for the MPTC project in England, Scotland and Wales is £71,000,000. Approximately £55,900,000 has been allocated to England. These figures are indicative based on forecasts and estimates and may change before the end of the project.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the net cost of the re-organisation of driving test centres in *(a)* Wellingborough, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [216528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency estimates the net costs of reorganisation as follows:

		£
(a)	Wellingborough	5,000
(b)	Northamptonshire	10,000
(c)	England	350,000

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new multi-purpose driving test centres are being built; and what the location of each such centre is. [216529]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 16 multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) are under construction and completion is expected by 29 September 2008. Four MPTCs are under construction and completion is expected after 29 September 2008. We are seeking to acquire sites for a further 23 MPTCs. 23MPTCs are already completed.

Details of the locations are as follows:

MPTCs under construction and completion expected by 29 September 2008

Swindon;
Lincoln;
Inverness;
Cambridge;
Chester;
Crawley;
Norwich;
Swansea;
Wellingborough;
Guildford;
Bangor;
Basildon;
Fareham;
Herne Bay;
Carlisle;
Bristol.

MPTCs under construction and completion expected after 29 September 2008

Blackburn;
Greater Manchester North;
Aberdeen;
Plymouth.

Areas where suitable MPTC sites are in course of acquisition

Wick;
Ayr;
Keighley;
Maidstone-Gillingham;
Stoke;
Dumfries;
Taunton;
Newbury;
Uxbridge;
Redruth;
Stockport;
Wolverhampton.

Areas with no options for permanent MPTCs

Aylesbury;
Bathgate;
Bournemouth;
Croydon;
Dundee;
Eastbourne;
Haverfordwest;
Leeds;
Lerwick;
Oban;
York.

Completed MPTCs

Birmingham;
Burton;
Darlington;
East Lothian;
Enfield;
Erith;
Exeter;
Gateshead;
Glasgow;
Gloucester;
Hull;
Ipswich;
Kings Lynn;
Leicester;
Newport;
Nottingham;
Rotherham;
Scunthorpe;
Shrewsbury;
St. Helens;
Peterborough;
Kirkcaldy;
Cardington.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres are to close as a result of the introduction of multi-purpose test centres; and what the location of each centre planned for closure is. [216530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency plans to relocate 47 driving test centres to multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) in the next 12 months. The driving test centre and the MPTC to which it is relocating is shown in the following list.

Driving Test Centre	*Relocating to.*
Aberdeen	Aberdeen MPTC
Ayr	Ayr MPTC
Basingstoke	Farnborough MPTC
Bexleyheath	Erith MPTC
Blackburn	Blackburn MPTC
Brighton	Burgess Hill MPTC
Burton On Trent	Burton on Trent MPTC
Camborne L	Redruth MPTC
Carlisle	Carlisle MPTC
Chester	Chester MPTC
Cupar	Kirkcaldy MPTC
Dundee	Dundee MPTC
Ellesmere Port	Chester MPTC
Farnborough	Farnborough MPTC
Gedling (Nottingham)	Colwick (Nottingham) MPTC
Gillingham	Gillingham MPTC
Gosport	Lee on Solent (Fareham) MPTC
Gravesend	Gillingham MPTC
Haverfordwest	Haverfordwest MPTC
Hayes	Uxbridge MPTC
Herne Bay	Thanet Way MPTC
Hove	Burgess Hill MPTC
Inverness	Inverness MPTC
Kettering	Kettering MPTC
Kings Lynn	Kings Lynn MPTC
Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy MPTC
Leicester Welford Road	Wigston MPTC
Lincoln	Lincoln MPTC
Minehead	Taunton MPTC
Norwich	Norwich MPTC
Pembroke Dock	Haverfordwest MPTC
Penzance	Redruth MPTC
Peterborough	Peterborough MPTC
Plymouth	Plymouth MPTC
Reading LGV	Greenham Common MPTC
Shirley	Garretts Green MPTC
Southend	Basildon MPTC
Spalding	Peterborough MPTC
Swansea	Swansea MPTC
Swindon	Swindon MPTC
Taunton	Taunton MPTC
Warrington	St Helens MPTC
Washwood Heath	Garretts Green MPTC
Wellingborough	Kettering MPTC
West Bridgford (Nottingham)	Colwick (Nottingham) MPTC
Wisbech	Kings Lynn MPTC
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton MPTC

Driving Tests: Southend

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to run Southend driving test centre in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* per test. [210594]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: The total accommodation costs for Southend driving test centre for the last five year's are as follows:

£

	Amount shown in accounts	*Year end accrual from previous year*	*Actual total for year*
2003	7,881		7,881
2004	8,565		8,565
2005	13,138		13,138
2006	45,613		45,613
2007	22,027	26,997	49,024

Owing to a change in the financial reporting system used by Driving Standards Agency (DSA), figures cannot be provided prior to 2003. The accommodation costs provided do not include further costs of operating a driving test centre such as salaries and travel and subsistence claims. DSA does not keep information about the cost per test of providing services by individual driving test centre.

Driving Under the Influence

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has commissioned on the marginal effects in terms of accident prevention of lowering the permitted level of alcohol in the blood when driving. [216489]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An assessment of the possible effect on road traffic casualties of lowering the legal alcohol limit for drivers was made in the Department's consultation paper 'Combating Drink Driving: Next Steps' (February 1998), copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Lorries: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many checks on heavy goods vehicles were carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the most recent *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* four quarters; and what the country of registration was of those vehicles. [216995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication her Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: One copy of the *Morning Star* is received on a daily basis (Monday to Saturday). The total weekly cost is £3.60.

Railway Stations: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans the British Transport Police have to enhance their screening capability for passengers; [216414]

(2) what steps will be taken following the London Underground and National Railways Passenger Screening Trials to reduce passenger concerns about the criteria used to select passengers for screening; and if she will make a statement; [216408]

(3) what assessment she has made following the London Underground and National Railways Passenger Screening Trials of the practicality of passenger screening at stations, with particular reference to *(a)* the numbers who may be screened and *(b)* the time taken to screen. [216413]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-40 WS.

In a press notice issued the same day, the British Transport Police (BTP) noted that "these enhancements build on BTP's existing search measures to screen a proportion of passengers and their bags with minimal delay". Initial deployments of this enhanced capability have been well received by passengers and by station staff.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what percentage of weekends in *(a)* June 2008 there were and *(b)* July and August 2008 there are expected to be disruptions to the railway line between (i) Colchester and Walton-on-the-Naze and (ii) Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea as a result of engineering works. [216227]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE.

Railways: Scotland

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on Railways: Scotland, what the terms of reference are of Network Rail's development of longer-term options for the railway network; when she expects it to report; and if she will make a statement. [214010]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 26 June 2008]:* The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network including new lines and whether or not these should be conventional or high speed. As part of this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. It will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland Main Lines. The study is expected to be complete in July 2009.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of passenger train services running between *(a)* Clacton-on-Sea and London Liverpool Street and *(b)* Walton-on-the-Naze and London Liverpool Street was more than 10 minutes late, in the most recent month for which figures are available. [216228]

Mr. Tom Harris: National Express East Anglia has advised that 7.30 per cent. of services between Clacton-on-Sea and London Liverpool Street arrived more than 10 minutes late between 25 May and 21 June. 5.6 per cent. of services between Walton-on-the-Naze and London Liverpool Street arrived more than 10 minutes late during the same period.

River Thames: Shipping

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* incidents and *(b)* accidents involving vessels there were on the River Thames in each month of the last three years. [214784]

Jim Fitzpatrick: According to the records of the Port of London Authority, the numbers of reported navigational incidents (collision, contact or grounding) on the tidal River Thames (the area extending from Teddington Lock in the west to the outer limits of the Thames Estuary in the east) in each month of the last three years were:

2005	
	Number
June	2
July	2
August	2
Sept	2
October	1
November	4
December	2

2006	
	Number
January	1
February	1
March	2
April	1
May	1
June	3
July	3
August	3
Sept	4
October	3
November	5
December	1

2007	
	Number
January	1
February	0
March	1
April	2
May	0
June	0
July	5
August	1
Sept	3
October	4
November	1
December	4

2008	
	Number
January	4
February	2
March	3
April	0
May	2

Roads: Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department and its agencies are undertaking into the economic effects of bottlenecks in the national road infrastructure, with particular regard to the A417; and if she will make a statement. [215333]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Eddington study, published in December 2006, showed that eliminating existing congestion on the road network would be worth £7-8 billion per annum. As part of the Government's response to the Eddington and Stern reviews, the Secretary of State announced on 30 October 2007 that the Department for Transport's appraisal framework, the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA), would be refreshed as part of a review of the Government's approach to transport policy. The refresh included a consultation to which the Department published a response on 30 June 2008. The refresh includes work to develop the Department's appraisal of reliability impacts on major roads. The refreshed approaches in NATA will be applied to the appraisal of all major road schemes.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the High Level Output Statement are part of the *(a)* Thameslink programme, *(b)* Inter City Express programme and *(c)* proposed new Pendolino carriages for the West Coast Main Line. [212950]

Mr. Tom Harris: The High Level Output Specification (HLOS) programme and the exact detail in delivering the vehicles is an iterative process which is being developed with the train operating companies to deliver the additional 1,300 vehicles.

Some of the vehicles in the Thameslink programme will contribute towards the additional capacity in the HLOS programme. The exact number is still to be determined and depends on a number of factors, including the final contracted delivery profile.

None of the 1,300 extra carriages promised are part of the Inter City Express programme, but 106 are part of the proposed new Pendolino carriages for the West Coast Main Line.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the consultation process adopted in relation to rolling stock companies prior to the publication of her Department's high level output statement. [216763]

Mr. Tom Harris: A range of workshops were held with industry, environmental, business, consumer and stakeholder organisations throughout the development of the rail White Paper and the High Level Output Specification. Rolling stock companies were included within this. The reason for the widespread consultation was to inform our thinking before the White Paper was determined.

Rolling Stock: Competition

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the provisional findings of the Competition Commission inquiry into the rolling stock companies to be made available to *(a)* her and *(b)* ministerial colleagues; and on what date the findings will be made public. [216758]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Competition Commission are due to notify their provisional findings during the course of this month. The investigation timetable is set out on their website:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2007/roscos/pdf/core-timetable.pdf.

Shipping

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 24 UK flagged ships were detained by Port State Authorities belonging to the Paris memorandum of undertaking on Port State Control; and what the *(a)* name, *(b)* manager, *(c)* beneficial owner and *(d)* country of beneficial owner was of each. [214785]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 22 UK registered ships that were detained in 2005-07 by Port State Authorities belonging to the Paris memorandum of undertaking on Port State Control are in the following table.

Detentions 200-07

(a) Ship Name	*IMO Number*	*(b) Ship Manager*	*Manager Country*	*(c) Ship Owner*	*(d) Owner Country*	*Remarks*
MSC Colombia	9103685	Zodiac Matitime Agencies Ltd	UK	Selt Maritime Inc	BVI	
Ocean Taxi	P040008	Mr Leo Rasmussen	Denmark	Mr Leo Rasmussen	Denmark	
Haahr Bridge	6704426	Uni-Tankers M/T "Haahr Bridge" APS	Denmark	Uni-Tankers M/T "Haahr Bridge" APS	Denmark	Flagged out to St Kitts in 01/08
Breant	7802756	Rederi AB Lillgaard	Finland	Rederi AB Lillgaard	Finland	
Betsy S	9143398	Reederei Karl Schlueter	Germany	K G MS "Betsy" Schiffahrtsgesellschaft MBIH and Co	Germany	
Maike D	9226372	Reede Reiver Waltung	Germany	MS "Maike" Schiffahrts-GmbH and Co KG	Germany	
Sider Joy	9285433	JSM Shipping	Germany	BNB Gmgh and Co KG	Germany	Flagged out to Malta in 04/07
Locator	7023881	Mylotte Ferries Ltd	Ireland	Mylotte Ferries Ltd	Ireland	
Columbialand	7519282	ASP Ship Management Ltd	UK	Senior Shipping Limited	London	Flagged out to Panama in 10/07
Ievoli Silver	8916487	V Ships Norway AS	Norway	Mosvold Chemical KS	Norway	
Finnmaster	9192129	Norbulk Shipping UK Ltd	UK	Parlines Roro KS	Norway	
Sand Weaver	7340899	Cemex UK Marine Ltd	UK	Cemex UK Marine Ltd	UK	
Sun London	7636365	Svitzer Towage Ltd	UK	Svitzer Towage Ltd	UK	
Celtic Terrier	7800734	Campbell Maritime Ltd	UK	Celtic Tankers Plc	UK	Flagged out
Ardent	8213445	Anthony Charles Glover	UK	Anthony Charles Glover	UK	Changed owner 26/10/07
Hoo Beech	8813051	Lapthorne Shipping	UK	Lapthorne Shipping	UK	Company now called Coastal Bulk Shipping
Sea-Land racer	9116890	Maersk Shipping	UK	Maersk Shipping	UK	Flagged out to Netherlands in 06/07
Scot Explorer	9137193	Intrada Ships Management Ltd	UK	Scot Explorer Shipping Ltd	UK	
Perth	9162605	All Ocean Ltd	UK	All Ocean Charters 2 Ltd	UK	
Lia C	9195925	Carisbrooke Shipping Holdings Ltd	UK	Carisbrooke Shipping Holdings Ltd	UK	Flagged out to Malta in 04/06
Ayton Cross	9206956	Svitzer Marine Ltd	UK	Svitzer Marine Ltd	UK	
Varmland	9276341	MQS Marine Consulting Quality and Safety	Germany	Tetuan Shipping Company Ltd	UK	

In addition to the 22 UK registered ships listed the time of their detention, but recorded as UK above there were two ships that were registered in Gibraltar, at registered.

Transport: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has tested future transport policy against each of the oil price scenarios provided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and if she will make a statement. [216765]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is currently producing road transport forecasts using the recently updated Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) oil price projections. This work is not yet complete.

While we have focused on BERR's central oil price projections in previous Department analyses, we have also considered the impacts of each of the alternative price scenarios they provide as sensitivity analyses. We would anticipate this would be undertaken for future road, rail and air forecasts used in policy analysis.

Transport: Schools

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received from bus service operators on the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on the provision of school bus services; and if she will make a statement. [217241]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are aware from the Department's ongoing discussions with bus operators that there are concerns about the impact of increased fuel costs on all the services they provide, including school bus services.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the outline business case prepared by the Department for Transport Board on outsourcing the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [215244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The outline business case is an internal document which remains subject to change. I made a written statement to the House on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 61-64WS, which sets out the substantive decision of Ministers on this matter.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency full Outline Business Case for outsourcing. [215682]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The outline business case is an internal document which remains subject to change. I made a written statement to the House on 3 July, *Official Report*, columns 61-4WS, which sets out the substantive decision of Ministers on this matter.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to finalise the budget for the conversion of the five vacated Eurostar platforms at Waterloo for use by domestic rail services. [215879]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) to finalise the costs of the partial conversion of platform 20 of Waterloo International to accommodate a limited number of domestic services from December 2008.

However, it is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning to make all the platforms at Waterloo long enough to accommodate 10 car trains and to modify the junction layouts on the approaches to the station, so that, ultimately, all the platforms at Waterloo, including those once used by Eurostar, can be used by 10 car domestic services.

Network Rail is currently developing the scope and costs of delivering such a large and complex scheme which would allow the use of longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity on the South Western network.

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work to commence on the five empty platforms at Waterloo Station to allow use by domestic rail services. [215880]

Mr. Tom Harris: Work to convert Waterloo International to accommodate a limited number of domestic services will commence this summer. These services, most likely on the routes to Windsor and Reading, could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from the proposed timetable change date in December 2008.

It is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning to make all the platforms at Waterloo long enough to accommodate 10 car trains and to modify the junction layouts on the approaches to the station, so that, ultimately, all the platforms at Waterloo, including those once used by Eurostar, can be used by 10 car domestic services.

Such a large and complex scheme would allow the use of longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity on the South Western network. Our current assumptions indicate that this could be completed by around 2014.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

192.com

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will *(a)* subscribe to the 192.com service and *(b)* make it available on the Parliamentary intranet; and if he will make a statement. [216326]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Library will not subscribe to 192.com. Some of the information available through this service, including business contact details and directory inquiries services, is freely available from sources such as yell.com and BT directory inquiries which are already listed on the Library intranet page.

192.com also contains the redacted version of the electoral register. All Members are able to request the full register for their registration area, free of charge, from the local electoral registration officer. In addition the 'Find Your MP' service on the Parliament website can be used to check which constituency a given postcode falls under. Other information available from 192.com, such as family records, is not likely to be relevant for Parliamentary research purposes

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) which Big Lottery Fund-approved grants to the London Olympic project have been (a) notified to and (b) authorised by the EU Commission for State aid clearance, broken down by each budget line approved grant by the Big Lottery Fund; [215692]

(2) which Big Lottery Fund-approved grants to the London Olympic project have not been notified to the EU Commission State aid department; and what the reasons were for non-notification, broken down by each budget line approved grant by the Big Lottery Fund. [215693]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

No such grants have been made.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether it is her Department's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment she has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207921]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 June 2008]*: Departments deal with requests for information on a case-by-case basis, applying exemptions where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. Any request for officials' home addresses would be handled in this way.

Ethnic Minorities

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of staff at the Women's National Commission are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* black and minority ethnic male and *(d)* black and minority ethnic female. [171379]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: The Women's National Commission has a small staff and provision of this information in the categories required would make it possible to identify individuals, if such information was used alongside other material in the public domain. This would be in breach of guidance on ethnicity disclosure. The Government Equalities Office sponsors the WNC. Combining the staff numbers of the GEO and the WNC lessens the risk of breaching the guidance on ethnicity disclosure and gives the following figures, based on the declaration staff have made.

	Percentage
(a) Male	39.4
(b) Female	60.6
(c) BME male	Less than 1
(d) BME female	10.6

The figure for BME males is inflated to a certain extent to avoid the possibility of a breach of guidance. This calculation excludes temporary staff.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213226]

Mr. Woodward: The depreciation periods used by the Northern Ireland Office are consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above three per cent. [214555]

Mr. Woodward: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles:

- Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery;
- Ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within departments' overall expenditure plans; and
- Consistent with the achievement of the inflation target.

Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210563]

Mr. Woodward: Training costs for the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its Agencies in the last five years are shown in the following table.

£

	NIO	*Agencies*	*Total*
2003-04	1,377,259	3,147,049	4,524,308
2004-05	1,045,425	3,143,007	4,188,432
2005-06	1,068,392	3,271,027	4,339,419
2006-07	853,533	2,509,026	3,362,559
2007-08	636,629	3,017,987	3,654,616

Note:
Training Costs for the last 12 months are shown as the figures for 2007-08.

George W. Bush: Official Visits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of policing and security was for the visit of President George W. Bush to Northern Ireland on 16th June 2008. [213473]

Paul Goggins: The additional cost to policing for the visit of President Bush on 16 June was £306,000

Speed Limits: Cameras

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to erect additional fixed speed cameras in Northern Ireland. [215735]

Paul Goggins: PSNI currently have no plans to introduce any new fixed safety cameras in Northern Ireland. This is subject to periodic review.

WALES

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many permanent staff in his Department are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215583]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215455]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information is as follows.

(a) During the 2005-06, 2006-07 and current Sessions of Parliament the Wales Office answered ordinary written questions on average within five days.

(b) For the same period 97 per cent. of named day questions were answered on the specified day.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was collected from concessionary rod licensees in each of the last five years. [215820]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the Environment Agency's Concessionary Rod Licence Income between 2003 and 2008.

£ million

Category	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Coarse and Trout	2.22	2.33	2.19	2.20	2.44
Salmon and Sea Trout	0.21	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.25
Total	2.43	2.56	2.41	2.42	2.69

Fish Farming: Gordleton

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much subsidy was paid from the public purse to the Aquabella Group in respect of the fish farm at Gordleton in the New Forest in each of the last five years. [216915]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has not provided any funding to the Aquabella Group in respect of the fish farm at Gordleton, Hampshire in the last five years.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to buy back unused UK fishing quota at the end of 2008 and make it available to the under-10 metre fishing fleet. [216415]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 433W.

Regional Development Programme for England

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many grant applications for Regional Development Programme for England money each regional development agency has received for *(a)* up to £5,000, *(b)* £5,001 to £100,000, *(c)* £100,001 to £1,000,000 and *(d)* over £1,000,000 since 1 January 2007. [215411]

Jonathan Shaw: The regional development agencies (RDAs) have been responsible for managing the delivery of the social and economic elements of the Rural Development Programme for England since the programme was formally launched at the beginning of 2008. DEFRA has agreed with RDAs that delivery of the socio-economic measures of the RDPE will take a more strategic approach and will include a significant element of procured or commissioned activity, rather than solely being delivered by an individual application led approach. In addition, some RDPE investment will be through the bottom-up Leader approach. Under Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) will be allocated individual budgets to fund projects that are part of an agreed Local Development Strategy. The process of agreeing and allocating funds to LAGs is currently under way across regions.

The number of grant applications by value of individual project received by each agency is set out in the following table.

Agency	*Up to £5,000*	*£5,001 to £100,000*	*£100,001 to £1,000,000*	*Over £1,000,000*
Advantage West Midlands			1	10 LAGs
			1 LAG	4 strategic action plans

Agency	Up to £5,000	£5,001 to £100,000	£100,001 to £1,000,000	Over £1,000,000
East of England Development Agency		1	1 1 LAG	1 6 LAGs
East Midlands Development Agency		3	11	1 4 LAGs
North West Development Agency			2 LAGs	6 LAGs
One North East	9	1	1 1 LAG	4 LAGs
South East England Development Agency		2	6	1 17 LAGs
South West of England Regional Development Agency		2	2	4 19 LAGs
Yorkshire Forward		40	9	1 6 LAGs

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each regional development agency has allocated from the Regional Development Programme for England to specific projects since 1 January 2007; and how many such allocations were for *(a)* up to £5,000, *(b)* £5,001 to £100,000, *(c)* £100,001 to £1,000,000 and *(d)* over £1,000,000. [215412]

Jonathan Shaw: The regional development agencies have only been able to commit funding to projects under the Rural Development Programme for England since 1 January 2008.

The total amounts each agency has committed are shown in the following table.

Agency	Total (£ million)	Up to £5,000	£5,001 to £100,000	£100,001 to £1,000,000	Over £1,000,000
Advantage West Midlands	10.2 (LAGs)			1 (LAG)	7 (LAGs)
East of England Development Agency	12.8 21.1 (LAGs)		1	1 1 (LAG)	1 6 (LAGs)
East Midlands Development Agency	0.7 8 (LAGs)		1	4	4 (LAGs)
North West Development Agency	15 (LAGs)			2 (LAGs)	6 (LAGs)
One North East	0.1 10.6 (LAGs)	9	1	1 1 (LAG	4 (LAGs)
South East England Development Agency	4 27.3 (LAGs)		1	5	1 13 (LAGs)
South West of England Regional Development Agency	7.1		2	1	4
Yorkshire Forward	10.7		17	8	1

Rural Areas: Environment Protection

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the recommendations made by the Commission for Rural Communities in its report, England's rural areas: steps to release their economic potential, his Department intends to implement; and what timetable has been set for implementation. [215413]

Jonathan Shaw: This report, commissioned from the Rural Advocate by the Prime Minister, demonstrates the huge contribution made by businesses in rural areas to the national economy. It highlights the relevance of activity across all levels of Government and by the private sector. The recommendations within the report are, therefore, very broadly targeted. DEFRA is working with others across Government to reflect upon the report and how best to respond to its recommendations.

Whales: Japan

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the compliance of the Japanese Government with the regulations of the International Whaling Commission (IWC); and what recent representations he has made to it on its observance of IWC regulations. [216782]

Jonathan Shaw: The right of Governments to issue permits for the killing of whales for scientific purposes is enshrined in Article VIII of the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the parent treaty of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). We doubt that the authors of the ICRW envisaged that parties would seek to conduct research on the scale now practised by Japan, but whether Japan's activities in this regard can be said to constitute an abuse of the rights granted by Article VIII of the ICRW is a matter which only the courts could determine—were anyone prepared to stand the cost of asking.

Whether or not 'scientific' whaling is legal, we certainly regard it as undesirable since it undermines the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling and contributes little or nothing to our knowledge of the size and structure of whale populations.

The UK takes every appropriate opportunity to make its opposition to Japan's 'scientific' whaling operations clear to the Japanese Government. We have participated in a number of high level diplomatic protests in recent years and on 8 January this year I called in officials from the Japanese embassy in London to express the UK's outrage over Japan's whaling activities. At this year's IWC meeting in June the UK Commissioner to the IWC made it clear that we saw no justification for lethal scientific research on whales and called for Special Permit whaling to be brought within IWC control and phased out as quickly as possible.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216370]

Margaret Hodge: My Department currently has 50 members of staff authorised to work from home. They all have limited access to my Department's IT infrastructure. Additionally, my Department has a further 35 staff with remote access on the same basis.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 9W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215248]

Margaret Hodge: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215230]

Margaret Hodge: The reimbursable expenses claimed by the Department's special advisers in each of the last 10 years are set out in the table.

Financial year	*Amounts claimed (£)*
1998-99	516.55
1999-2000	417.27
2000-01	2,204.40
2001-02	1,847.91
2002-03	1,188.40
2003-04	1,079.60
2004-05	1,549.45
2005-06	1,147.31
2006-07	1,342.24
2007-08	680.30

Education, Youth and Culture Council

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 50WS, on Education, Youth and Culture Council, for what reasons a Welsh Assembly Government Minister represented the UK. [215059]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 July 2008]*: According to the concordat agreed between the UK Government and the devolved Administrations, decisions on ministerial attendance at Council meetings are taken on a case by case basis by the lead UK Minister. It was agreed that a Welsh Assembly Government Minister could represent the UK to support and advance the UK negotiating line on this occasion.

English Sports Council

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library *(a)* an organogram of Sport England's key responsibilities under its new strategy and *(b)* a list of the delivery agencies who will carry them out. [214527]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: Sport England's role will be to build the foundations of sporting success through the creation of a world-leading sports development system. The organisational structure which will deliver the Sport England 2008 to 2011 strategy is being finalised and will be announced shortly. I have therefore asked Sport England to write to the hon. Member to provide the information requested once their new structure has been announced. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

English Sports Council: Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by Sport England on specialist national facilities, excluding those on UK Sports Institute sites, in each year since 1999. [213792]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England allocates funding for specialist national facilities through the English Institute of Sport (EIS) programme. All EIS facilities are also classed as part of the UK Sports Institute (UKSI).

Other facilities funded by Sport England are funded on the basis of the benefit to community sport, and while they may be used for specialist national purposes, information on the amount spent on non-UKSI community facilities which also have specialist national purpose could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

English Sports Council: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England has received in *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* lottery funding in each year since 1999. [213783][1]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is tabled as follows:

£000

		Sport England grant in aid	*SE lottery funding*
Outturn	1999-2000	37,523	251,000
Outturn	2000-01	38,323	232,000
Outturn	2001-02	43,162	309,000
Outturn	2002-03	80,324	313,000
Outturn	2003-04	44,572	261,000
Outturn	2004-05	74,456	232,000
Outturn	2005-06	80,971	400,000
Outturn	2006-07	104,245	296,000
Provisional Outturn[1]	2007-08	113,296	227,000

[1] The accounts for Sport England have not yet been audited.

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items there are in the Government art Collection; and what the value of the collection is. [215036]

Margaret Hodge: There are approximately 13,500 works of art in the Government art collection.

It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the value of the Government art collection, which has no current market valuation. The current monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of purchase or sale or by professional valuation. In the former case, the collection is not actively traded; in the latter, it would not be justifiable expenditure of public funds to have the whole collection valued professionally.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items from the Government art Collection are on loan to *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas institutions, Governments and galleries. [215037]

Margaret Hodge: The Government art Collection lends works of art from its holdings for display in United Kingdom Government buildings in the UK and abroad in order to promote British art, culture and history to visitors.

(a) There are currently 3,732 works of art on loan to UK Government buildings in the UK. There are 116 works of art on loan to institutions and galleries in the UK.

(b) There are 5,428 works of art on loan to UK Government buildings overseas. There are six works of art on loan to institutions, governments and galleries overseas.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much it cost to maintain the Government art Collection in each of the last five years. [215038]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is set out in the table.

£000

Financial year	*Total resource costs of Government Art Collection*	*Net GAC programme cost*	*Of which conservation and restoration costs*	*GAC administration cost*	*GAC capitalised additions to collection*
2003-04	808	313	181	495	220
2004-05	884	348	194	536	287
2005-06	918	352	177	566	242
2006-07	958	346	221	612	228
2007-08	1,033	395	218	638	314

---

1. *[Official Report, 10 September 2008, Vol. 479, c. 10MC.]*

Programme costs mainly comprise conservation and restoration, and transport of works of art. The table lists conservation and restoration costs separately for ease of reference. Staff and associated costs are included under administration costs. Expenditure on purchases of works of art from the capital budget is set out in the final column.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed to maintain and advise on the Government art Collection. [215039]

Margaret Hodge: On 31 May 2008 15 staff were employed to maintain and advise on the Government art Collection.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many art works from the Government art Collection have been *(a)* sold and *(b)* loaned permanently to institutions and individuals outside the UK in the last 10 years; and what the value was of such works in each year. [215044]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

(a) No works of art have been sold from the Government art Collection in the last 10 years.

(b) There are six works of art on long-term loan to institutions outside the UK which are not UK Government buildings. HMG retains title to these items and so their financial value remains on the DCMS balance sheet.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many art works were purchased by the Government art Collection in each of the last 10 years; and what the value was of such purchases in each year. [215047]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of works purchased	*Cost (£)*
1998-99	95	125,262
1999-2000	152	194,296
2000-01	81	134,440
2001-02	54	158,926
2002-03	63	279,393
2003-04	64	225,119
2004-05	52	295,169
2005-06	50	241,745
2006-07	43	227,590
2007-08	65	314,367

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library the minutes of all meetings of the Government Art Collection Committee to discuss art work in the new Home Department building in Westminster. [215048]

Margaret Hodge: There is no Government Art Collection (GAC) Committee to discuss the Home Office building in Westminster. The aspects of Home Office commissioning for which the GAC is responsible are discussed at the meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection. The minutes relating to these discussions will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have visited the Government art Collection in the last 12 months; and how many were not associated with *(a)* the UK Government or *(b)* overseas Governments. [215051]

Margaret Hodge: From 1 July 2007 until 30 June 2008, approximately 2,000 people visited the Government art collection, of whom about 1,700 were not associated with the UK or overseas Governments.

National Lottery: British Overseas Territories

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether historic sites in overseas territories may apply for National Lottery funding; and what other Government funding is available for the maintenance of heritage centres and historic sites in overseas territories; [212618]

(2) whether funding or grants from the National Lottery may be allocated to heritage sites in British overseas territories. [214111]

Margaret Hodge: National lottery grants are awarded by lottery distributors who are independent of the Government; the Heritage Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing proceeds from the lottery for expenditure on or connected with national heritage (including historic sites and public access). It does not support applications in respect of historic sites in overseas territories. There are no plans to change this position. No other public funding is available from sources in the United Kingdom in relation to the maintenance of heritage centres and historic sites in overseas territories.

Public Libraries: Closures

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many library closures have taken place since 1997; what the reasons have been for those closures; and how much is planned to be spent on library services in 2008-09. [216490]

Margaret Hodge: The number of public library closures and the reasons for those closures are not centrally recorded. However, the net change in library service points can be calculated using Public Library Statistics, an annual report published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These reports are available in the House of Commons Library.

The forecast net total cost of expenditure on library services in England for 2008-09 is £1,003,087,000 (excluding specific grants).

Public Libraries: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* public and *(b)* mobile libraries there were in (i) Hampshire, (ii) the Test Valley and (iii) Southampton in each of the last 15 years. [216543]

Margaret Hodge: The number of public and mobile libraries is set out in Public Library Statistics, an annual report published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These reports are available in the House of Commons Library. The figures are published at local authority level and are available for Hampshire and Southampton, but not for the Test Valley.

Road Signs and Markings: Tourist Attractions

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received seeking the review of guidelines on the erection of brown road signs indicating tourist attractions. [212451]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that no such representations have been received by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Transport, or the Highways Agency.

VisitBritain

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to close VisitBritain offices overseas. [215334]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain is currently considering the best use of all of its assets at home and overseas in the marketing of Britain, as part of its Strategic Review. The review is re-examining among other things how best to market Britain overseas, ensuring that full account is taken of changing market conditions and the need for best value for money.

This includes a full consideration of the appropriate mix of online marketing and overseas representation, and the identification of further operational efficiencies that can be achieved through shared resources and joint promotion. This process has included discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British Council, VisitLondon, VisitScotland, Visit Wales, and VisitBritain's other public and private sector partners. The results of the review will be published following full consultation on the recommendations made.

World Heritage Sites

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the process for selecting places of interest for UNESCO World Heritage status; and if he will make a statement. [215592]

Margaret Hodge: We are currently reviewing our World Heritage policy including the selection of sites for potential nomination to UNESCO for World Heritage status.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214553]

Gillian Merron: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in his Department in the last 24 months. [215605]

Mr. Malik: Over the last 24 months a total of 115 passes have been reported as lost or stolen by Department for International Development (DFID) staff in the UK. We do not hold a central record of passes lost by staff in our overseas offices and these data could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215646]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) subscribes to the Parliamentary TV System to allow access to the Parliamentary Annunciator System, the Division Bell and Commons and Lords TV channels in the UK. Other services and channels are included in the package; these are selected by the Information Committee of the Houses of Parliament.

DFID has subscribed to the above service since 1997. Annual costs for 2006, 2007 and 2008 are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2006	20,850
2007	20,850
2008[1]	6,610

[1] To date.

In addition, DFID pays the annual standard TV licence fee of £139.50 per year for two Freeview digital boxes.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to ensure that heavily indebted countries are able to access debt relief funds from the UK Government. [215596]

Mr. Thomas: The UK provides debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) under the internationally agreed frameworks. Excellent progress has been made, with 33 countries benefiting from debt relief under HIPC; of these 23 have received 100 per cent. irrevocable debt cancellation, under the multilateral debt relief initiative. To qualify, countries must demonstrate a commitment to macro-economic stability and poverty reduction, and have cleared any arrears to the international financial institutions. The UK exceeds our obligations under the HIPC Initiative, providing 100 per cent. debt relief on bilateral debts.

The UK supports HIPC countries to achieve debt relief. We have consistently argued for the World Bank and IMF to apply the HIPC criteria flexibly, taking account of a country's circumstances. For instance, whether it is emerging from conflict. We are the second largest donor towards the multilateral costs of HIPC debt relief, enabling countries to receive their debt relief in a timely way. We have contributed our full share to MDRI and made substantial contributions towards clearing arrears of HIPCs, most recently Liberia. Many of the HIPCs that have yet to qualify for debt relief are affected by conflict or poor governance.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase access to HIV positive preventative services for *(a)* injecting drug users and *(b)* men who have sexual intercourse with men in developing countries. [215417]

Gillian Merron: The 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' places at its heart the needs and rights of women, young people, children and vulnerable groups, including injecting drug users and men who have sex with men. The international goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support requires a commitment to equity, inclusion and human rights. The UK Government are intensifying efforts to increase the coverage of HIV/AIDS services for injecting drug users in countries where they are most affected and to improve the international environment on harm reduction, particularly through advocating for a stronger reflection on harm reduction and AIDS at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will work with the Department for International Development (DFID) to ensure broad and effective UK support.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to provide technical, financial and political support to countries wishing to use TRIPS flexibilities. [215486]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) fully supports the right of developing countries to use all the flexibilities in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, notably to ensure affordable access to medicines to meet public health needs. In particular the DFID aims to ensure that EU agreements with developing countries avoid, as a matter of course, imposing intellectual property obligations that eliminate these flexibilities.

Over the last five years DFID has spent over £1.6 million on enhancing developing countries' knowledge of and capability to use the TRIPS agreement, as well as their flexibilities within it. In September 2007, an additional £1.35 million was committed over three years, to assist developing countries implement intellectual property policies in ways that support sustainable development. This includes support through the International Centre for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how gender-based differences in AIDS prevention, education, and aid are incorporated into his Department's AIDS Strategy. [215487]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government's updated seven year AIDS strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' places at its heart the needs and rights of women and girls. This includes promoting the needs and rights of women through the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV, challenging gender based violence, research into female controlled prevention techniques such as microbicides, supporting girl's education, and reducing the burden of care on women and children through social protection. The updated AIDS strategy recognises that addressing gender inequality and ensuring women's rights is essential if we are to achieve universal access.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) commitment to gender equality is set out in the 2006 White Paper

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/default.asp

and the 2007 gender equity action plan

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/gender-equality.pdf

We will identify gender related targets in our corporate business plan, which will be monitored and evaluated at divisional level. Internationally, we are engaging with the OECD Development Assistance committee (DAC) on how to improve the quality of gender statistics and we will work to ensure that national AIDS plans integrate gender analysis and development indicators to measure the impact of the response to women and girls.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the earmarking of AIDS aid for children; and whether such earmarked funds will be incorporated in the new AIDS Strategy. [215488]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's previous AIDS strategy 'Taking Action' was launched in 2004. This set a £150 million earmark for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The earmark was an important step in accelerating action. Considerable progress has been made against the target, and initial estimates suggest we have exceeded it. It is likely that future support to orphans and vulnerable children from other donors will also increase in the coming years.

The UK Government continue to place the needs and rights of children affected by AIDS at the heart of our updated AIDS strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world'. Over the next three years we are committed to expanding our social protection programmes to over £200 million, which will be channelled both through Government and non-governmental organisations. Evidence has shown that integrating the needs of orphans and vulnerable children into social protection programmes, including cash transfers, is highly effective in reaching children affected by AIDS and promoting their access to basic services.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means his Department will disburse the £2.5 billion allocated to AIDS in the Developing World over the next three years; and whether any private organisations will be involved in the implementation of this aid. [215633]

Gillian Merron: In "Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" the UK Government committed £6 billion to strengthen health systems and services over seven years to 2015. The UK Government have also committed to spend over £200 million on social protection over three years to support the most vulnerable households, including orphans and vulnerable children. Funding for research and development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides will be increased by at least 50 per cent. over 2008-13. In addition to these recent commitments, the UK Government have made a long-term commitment of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In countries with strong commitments to development, Department for International Development (DFID) support is focused on the implementation of comprehensive country-led HIV/AIDS strategies, directly funding governments and working with civil society partners and donor agencies. In more fragile states, where governments are less effective, we provide technical support to strengthen Government capacity as well as direct support for service delivery by civil society organisations. Half of our support reaches countries through international agencies including UNAIDS, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and the European Commission. The private sector plays a significant role in the provision of services, through funding and research, influencing Governments and promoting workplace policies and corporate responsibility programmes which mitigate the impact of AIDS.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what programmes are being funded by his Department to facilitate universal access to HIV treatment; and what the estimated cost of providing these programmes is; [215637]

(2) what financial support his Department's programmes provide to those living with AIDS who are in need of treatment; and what plans he has for the future provision of such programmes; [215639]

(3) if he will break down by main budget heading the spending plans for the Government's AIDS strategy. [215640]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are working with others to increase access to more affordable and sustainable AIDS treatment. Specific actions to support these objectives include:

the launch of and support for the Medicines Transparency Initiative, which, by disclosing information on the prices, quality and availability of medicines will help increase public accountability and improve access to medicines, including AIDS treatment;

support for UNITAID, the international drugs purchase facility; and

support for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided over £1.5 billion to tackle HIV and AIDS since 2005. DFID does not break down its expenditure on HIV and AIDS between prevention, treatment and care. Our comprehensive response to the epidemic aims to link these elements. DFID does not support vertical, stand-alone interventions that weaken national systems and responses. In supporting country-led AIDS responses with investments such as budget and sector support we cannot disaggregate our expenditure by prevention, treatment and care.

DFID laid out how it would continue to tackle HIV and AIDS in its recent publication 'Achieving Universal Access'. DFID's country allocations for the next three years were presented in its annual report 2008, published in May. Individual country allocations for HIV and AIDS will be determined through discussions with other donors, partner governments and other stakeholders to ensure DFID aid is delivered in the most efficient way.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what plans his Department has to commit funding to the global AIDS strategy to contribute to a reduction in the strategy's funding gap; [215694]

(2) how much money the Government will be required to commit to the global AIDS strategy to remain the world's second largest AIDS donor in the next financial year; [215695]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to secure donations and assistance to the global AIDS strategy from other countries. [215696]

Gillian Merron: We are unaware of an internationally agreed global AIDS strategy. However, the UK Government are determined to play its part in closing the AIDS funding gap, estimated by UNAIDS to be US$ 40 billion by 2010 a highly ambitious quadrupling of current spending over just three years. That is why we made several new financial commitments in our recently published updated seven year strategy "Achieving Universal Access UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world". These commitments include: £6 billion over seven years to strengthen health systems and £200 million over three years to support social protection programmes.

Our objective is to combat HIV and AIDS and we will continue to encourage other countries and institutions to meet their commitments.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to facilitate transparency in the reporting of AIDS funding in health budgets of those nations receiving UK aid. [215729]

Gillian Merron: The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) collects data on how much households, national governments, international foundations and charities, as well as bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies spend on AIDS in low and middle income countries. This work helps to develop and maintain the best possible estimates of available financing, for use in tracking progress toward meeting defined resource requirements.

The national accounts of governments in our partner countries also track spending on health and other budget areas. As the nature of much health spending is multipurpose, apportionments to specific diseases, such as AIDS, is not straightforward.

The UK Government also track and monitor their own international development spending on AIDS and health but similarly it is not straightforward to apportion broader support to health systems to any specific disease. However, much of the UK support to the health sector will contribute to improved AIDS outcomes.

Through the International Health Partnership (IHP), donors are also expected to be more transparent about their support for national health plans, including for HIV/AIDS. Developing country governments have committed to report progress in reaching the targets and disbursing the amounts budgeted in their plans.

Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to address child mortality in developing countries, with particular reference to those developing countries with the highest mortality rates. [214811]

Gillian Merron: Progress on strengthening health systems in poor countries is vital if we are to accelerate progress towards achieving the child health Millennium Development Goal. This is why, along with other UN health agencies and a wide range of donors and country partners, DFID has championed the International Health Partnership designed to strengthen health systems and improve in-country donor coordination.

The UK also contributes to global initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation and Roll Back Malaria, which have helped raise awareness of childhood diseases and substantially increased the resources directed towards improving child health. The UK is also the second biggest donor to UNICEF and supports action to improve child health in several countries including Burundi, DRC, Nepal and Sudan.

On 2 June the UK Government's updated seven-year AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" was launched. This made several commitments which will benefit children, including £6 billion over seven years to strengthen health systems and £200 million over three years to support social protection programmes.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the libraries of both houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website: www.dfid.gov.uk.

Ethiopia: Food

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to Ethiopia to help with the recent grain shortage there; and if he will make a statement. [215400]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are very concerned at the humanitarian situation in parts of Ethiopia as a result of the failure of the short (Belg) rains. On 12 June the Ethiopian Government and the UN issued a joint appeal for a total of $421 million.

In May, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £5 million in support of humanitarian initiatives. I have approved a further £20 million in response to the worsening humanitarian situation.

The severity of the situation is increased by the shortage of food available in the country. Other donors to Ethiopia are shipping cereal to the country, but this will not begin to arrive until late July at the earliest. DFID's assistance therefore will fund emergency feeding programmes for the most vulnerable, especially children, until food availability improves.

DFID is also increasing its funding to the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme for chronically food insecure households bringing total for this year to £27 million.

Family Planning: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to *(a)* Marie Stopes International, *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation and *(c)* the United Nations Population Fund for (i) abortion, (ii) family planning and (iii) other reproductive health services in 2007-08; how much is planned for 2008-09; what restrictions his Department places on the use of such funds; and if he will make a statement. [216347]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to break down spending by (i) abortion, (ii) family planning, and (iii) other reproductive health services. However, DFID provided the following amounts to the organisations named;

In 2007-08 DFID provided £854,432 to Marie Stopes International (MSI) in support of 10 projects in developing countries to improve sexual and reproductive health services. The estimated disbursement figure for 2008-09 is expected to be about £700,000 for six projects.

In 2007-08 DFID provided £7.5 million of un-earmarked funding to the central budget of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and £20 million of un-earmarked funding to the central budget of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in 2007-08. Un-earmarked central funding carries no restrictions and enables IPPF and UNFPA to deliver their strategic plans, which include improving sexual and reproductive health services (including provision of safe abortion services where these are legal) and family planning, as agreed by their member states through their governing bodies. DFID's 2008-09 central budget contributions to IPPF and UNFPA are still being considered and will be announced soon.

DFID provided a further £2.050 million to IPPF towards the multi-donor funded Safe Action Abortion Fund (SAAF) and an additional £107,000 to IPPF in 2007-08 for a safe motherhood project in Asia which is now completed. DFID estimates a further £1.2 million will be allocated to IPPF for the SAAR in 2008-09.

DFID will also provide a total of £100 million between 2008-13 to support UNFPA's Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security. This will benefit the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and men in developing countries including access to life saving drugs and equipment to improve maternal health.

G8: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps are being taken by his Department to fulfil funding commitments made by the Government at the Heiligendamm Summit, with particular reference to the timetable for AIDS funding contributions; and what steps are being taken to encourage other G8 countries to contribute; [215483]

(2) what progress has been made in fulfilling the financial commitments relating to the £1.5 billion required for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of AIDS. [215484]

Gillian Merron: At the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in 2007, the G8 committed to scale up their efforts to achieve Universal Access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, including providing with other donors a projected $60 billion over the coming years for disease control and health systems. This includes a commitment of $1.5 billion for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. The UK Government are working to encourage G8 colleagues to ensure previous summit commitments are implemented as a priority at the forthcoming G8 leaders' summit in Japan on 7 to 9 July and to encourage G8 and other colleagues to contribute their share towards the goal of Universal Access.

In "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" the Government committed £6 billion to strengthen health systems and services over seven years to 2015, including PMTCT. In addition to this recent commitment, the UK Government have made a long-term commitment of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a leading source of PMTCT funding.

The UK will continue to work with others to intensify international efforts to increase to 80 per cent. by 2010 the percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who receive antiretroviral treatment, to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission, both in low income and high prevalence countries. The UK also helps to tackle HIV-related mother and child mortality and to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV through our support to health systems strengthening.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Overseas Aid: Health Professions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Health and *(b)* relevant stakeholders on the quality of the contribution to be made to aid efforts by healthcare workers volunteering on development and relief programmes. [208208]

Gillian Merron: Department of Health (DH) and the Department for International Development discussed this topic extensively in relation to the Government's response to Lord Crisp's report, "Global Health Partnerships: The UK contribution to health in developing countries". I have had meetings with Lord Crisp, my DH counterpart Dawn Primarolo, and the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), a key stakeholder. DFID and DH value long-term sustainable partnerships in the health sector, and consider there are significant opportunities for healthcare professionals to participate in international development.

As outlined in the Government response to Lord Crisp's report, DH is producing a framework for international development; this will update their "International Humanitarian and Health Work: Toolkit to support good practice" and be a guide for those considering developing country work. DFID and DH also commissioned an independent evaluation of links programmes between UK and developing country health organisations to identify what has worked well and good practice lessons. This will help inform the design of (i) a new funding scheme for links, and (ii) a Links Centre, which will include information for individuals wishing to volunteer for humanitarian work.

As this work is implemented both departments continue discussions with key stakeholders. For example, officials from both DFID and DH participated in the recent twentieth anniversary national health links conference organised by THET.

Sierra Leone: Politics and Government

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to the National Democratic Institute for learning and development provision for parliamentarians in Sierra Leone in each of the last two years. [216778]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has currently allocated £300,000 to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to work with the newly elected Parliament of Sierra Leone. This project, entitled "Strengthening the Parliament of Sierra Leone", commenced in September 2007 and is due to be completed by the end of July 2008.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

14. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policies in reducing the number of children in poverty. [216464]

15. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to meet the Government's target of eradicating child poverty. [216465]

Mr. Timms: We have succeeded in arresting and reversing the rising trend of child poverty with 600,000 children lifted above the line in the past decade. On Budget Day we published 'Ending child poverty: everybody's business' setting out progress to date and the Government's strategy.

Child/Pensioner Poverty

16. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to speed up the reduction of child and pensioner poverty. [216467]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 1998-99 we have lifted 600,000 children and 900,000 pensioners out of relative poverty. We have announced measures that are estimated to lift around a further 500,000 children out of poverty and we will continue to tackle pensioner poverty by encouraging take-up of benefits, and through the commitments made in Pensions Act 2007.

Index-linked Pensions

17. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's time scale is for restoring index-linking of pensions with earnings. [216468]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pensions Act 2007 provides a statutory requirement to uprate the basic state pension in line with average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012 but, in any event, we are required to do this by the end of the next Parliament.

Pensioner Poverty

18. **Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to alleviate pensioner poverty. [216469]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Through targeted support and around £12 billion extra funding, we have lifted 900,000 pensioners out of relative poverty. We have raised the pension credit standard minimum guarantee by at least earnings in every year since its introduction, and the value of the safety-net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997.

Welfare to Work Contracts

19. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to promote the availability of welfare to work programme contracts to voluntary organisations. [216470]

Mr. Timms: Many voluntary sector organisations have expertise in helping people overcome barriers and return to work. The Department's new commissioning strategy envisages a full role for them as subcontractors to prime contractors. We set up last month a Third Sector task force to advise on any further steps to ensure voluntary organisations can play a full role in welfare to work.

Disabled Children

20. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proposals his Department is considering to improve the support given to parents of children with disabilities. [216471]

Mrs. McGuire: In May 2007 'Aiming High for Disabled Children', announced £370 million for short break services over the CSR period. In addition, as a result of the Carers' Strategy, we will be investing £255 million to support carers, including those with disabled children over the short term.

Child Support

21. **Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of outstanding Child Support Agency cases; and if he will make a statement. [216472]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Operational Improvement Plan is delivering impressive results on outstanding cases. Uncleared new scheme applications have fallen from 221,000 to just under 107,000. Uncleared old scheme applications have fallen from 65,000 to 27,000.

The Agency continues to clear more cases per month than it receives.

22. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on child support issues. [216473]

Mr. Plaskitt: I received several representations on child support issues during the passage of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act. In particular, I received representations from One Parent Families/ Gingerbread, Families Need Fathers, Resolution, and the Law Society of Scotland on a variety of issues that were debated in both Houses. This followed on from the consultation on the Government's response to Sir David Henshaw's review of Child Maintenance, where we received 191 responses, 33 of which were from stakeholder groups.

The new chair and Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission have also received representations and are actively working with stakeholders on the development of the reformed Child Maintenance system.

Departmental Service Delivery

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage innovative policy development by his Department's staff to improve service delivery. [216461]

Mr. Timms: All our agencies are committed to delivering a first class service to their customers. Jobcentre Plus, for example, is an acknowledged world leader.

To further improve our service, we are increasingly devolving the power to those best placed to deliver—giving control to customers, to advisers, to providers and to communities to help provide the service people deserve.

One way of ensuring this is to encourage provider organisations with whom we work to suggest innovative programmes—in effect giving them a right to bid—so that we can consider how best we might make use of their innovation and flexibility.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of Child Support Agency cases in arrears that will go uncollected in the next five years. [212701]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 July 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the number of Child Support Agency cases in arrears that will go uncollected in the next five years. [212701]

Most child support cases accrue debt once an assessment or calculation has been carried out as the effective date of the assessment or calculation is often backdated and debt accrues from the effective date. It is not possible to provide an estimate of how many of these cases will not have the debt collected in the next five years.

The Agency takes the collection of outstanding debt very seriously. The focus of the final year of the Operational Improvement Plan continues to be enforcement and compliance, as the Agency strives to increase its debt collection and get more money for more children. Every effort is made to ensure the non-resident parents fulfil their financial responsibility to their children.

The Agency collected or arranged more than £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This is almost twice the £68 million of arrears collected in the year to March 2005 before the full introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215167]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available centrally in the format requested and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215162]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last two years the IT contracts awarded by the DWP are with Accenture for the Employment Support Allowance.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental and agency staff were reported as (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year between 1997 and 2001; and if he will make a statement. [215899]

Mr. Timms: The Department was formed in 2001, and complete records in respect of the period from 1997 to 2000 are not available.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants were employed in each of his Department's main offices in North Wales in each of the last 10 years. [216394]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* Information is available from September 2001 following the establishment of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001. For each year since then the number of civil servants employed in the Department's main offices in North Wales are shown in the following table.

Main offices are defined as being where 50 staff or more are or were employed.

					March				*September*
Office	*Town*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*
Ty Pont Britannia	Bangor	427	267	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Government Buildings Penrallt	Caernarfon	39	46	171	79	72	79	84	86
4a Coed Pella Road	Colwyn Bay	66	54	45	79	99	93	91	97
Flint House	Flint	0	0	8	57	63	65	76	74
Government Buildings Bridge Street	Llangefni	25	26	40	63	51	50	52	54
Thetford House	Porthmadog	21	22	45	63	59	67	72	69
80 High Street	Rhyl	61	48	43	26	25	31	39	42
64 Brighton Road	Rhyl	0	10	26	153	165	160	167	170
Grosvenor Road	Wrexham	578	462	464	444	521	484	287	238
Lord Street	Wrexham	0	63	57	47	79	93	104	72
Other offices—under 50 staff		185	176	214	256	292	276	262	254
Total		1,402	1,174	1,113	1,267	1,426	1,398	1,234	1,156

Departmental Records: Lost Property

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of personal information relating to members of the public that has been lost by his Department or its agencies since 1997 has since been rediscovered in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [215756]

Mr. Timms: The Department takes very seriously its responsibilities to protect customers' personal information. Given the nature and scale of the business of the Department and its agencies, instances when such personal information is lost are rare. Such incidents as do arise are, because of their very nature, usually dealt with and resolved locally.

No central records are kept of such small localised incidents and, consequently, information about the proportion of personal information lost and rediscovered is not available.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which projects in his Department have been subject to gateway reviews; and what the gateway review status of each is. [211147]

Mr. Timms: Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for senior responsible owners (SROs) and are not therefore made available.

The information in the following table provides a list of the gateway reviews undertaken on the Department's projects since 1 January 2003 in date order. Records of reviews undertaken prior to this date are not held centrally.

	Name of review
2002-03	Strategic Telephony
	Universal Banking System
	Child Support Reforms
	Job Retention and Rehabilitation
	Pensions Forecasting
	Incapacity Benefits Reforms
2003-04	Work Focused Interviews
	Bandaid
	Health and Safety Executive (HSE)—Major Hazards Installations System
	Digital Office Infrastructure
	Modernising Appeals
	Debt Management Programme
	Jobcentre Plus Implementation Programme
	HSE—Corporate Information Project

	Name of review
	Medical Provision Procurement of Services
	e-Enablement of Carers Allowance
	Incapacity Benefit Reforms
	Standard Local Housing Allowance
	HSE—Major Hazards Installations System
	Debt Management Programme
	Customer Information System
	Strategic Telephony
	Incapacity Benefit Reforms
	Electronic Registered Files
	Multi-Functional Server Replacement
	Work Focused Interviews for Partners of Working Age Beneficiaries
	HSE—Corporate Information Project
	HSE—Re-Fit
	Medical Provision Procurement of Services
2004-05	HR IS/IT Modernisation
	Euro Programme
	HSE—Corporate Information Project
	Review of Office Services
	Customer Management System
	Civil Partnerships Registration
	Pensions Organisation Project
	Inherited State Earnings-related Pensions System
	State Pension Deferrals
	Resource Management System
	Debt Management Programme
	Universal Banking Programme
	Electronic Registered Files
	Incapacity Benefit Reforms—Extension to Existing Customers
	HR IS/IT Modernisation
	(HR) Service Delivery Model
	Staff Information System
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	Medical Provision Procurement Project
	Records Storage Project
	HSE—Electronic Document Records Management (EDRM)
	Jobcentre Plus Implementation
	Benefit Processing Re-engineering Programme/Watch 3
2005-06	Pensions Transformation Programme (PTP)
	DWP IT Transformation Programme
	Payment Modernisation Programme
	HSE—HR Service Transformation (HRST)
	Corporate Integration Backbone
	Staff Information System—Phase 2
	IT Information Flows in Local Authorities
	Centralisation of Benefit Processing
	New Deal for Disabled People Successor
	Employee Services
	Child Support Reforms Business Transformation
	HSE—Corporate Information Project
	Disability and Carers Service (DCS) Change Programme
	Provider-led Pathways to Work
	Electronic Registered Files
	Employee Services
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	HSE—HRST
	HSE—EDRM
	BPRP/Watch 2
	Universal Banking
	Central Payment System
	HSE—FIT3 Programme
	Employee Services
	Debt Management Programme
	Multi-Functional Server Replacement
	DWP Vehicle Procurement Project
	Jobcentre Plus Implementation
	Centralisation of Benefits Processing
2006-07	DCS Change Programme
	DWP IT Transformation Programme
	Review of Office Services
	HSE—HRST
	Pensions Transformation Programme
	The Pensions Regulator Programme
	Review of Office Services
	HSE—EDRM
	ID Cards
	HR IS/IT Modernisation Programme
	Review of Head Office Estate
	HSE—HRST
	Employment Support Allowance
	Document Repository Service
	Provider-led Pathways to Work
	Resource Management System
	CSA Operational Improvement Plan
	Review of Office Services
	Contracted Employment Projects (CEPP)
	Central Payments System
2007-08	Review of Head Office Estate
	Child Maintenance Re-design
	Centralisation of Benefit Processing
	HSE—FIT3 Programme
	Enabling Savings Programme
	Employment Support Allowance
	Document Repository Service
	Provider-led Pathways to Work
	DWP Change Programme
	Customer Information System r4
	Method of Payment Reform Programme
	Child Maintenance Redesign
	Provider-led Pathways to Work

	Name of review
	Pensions Transformation Programme
	HSE—How and Where We Work
	DCS Change Programme
	Employment Support Allowance
	The Pensions Regulator
	HSE—Universal Work Recording
	Provider-led Pathways to Work
	HR IS/IT Modernisation Programme
	Pensions Reform Delivery Programme
	Flexible New Deal
2008-09	Enhanced Transmission Service Enhancements
	Civil Partnerships
	Head Office Estates Programme

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210582]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP offers a wide portfolio of L&D learning solutions that can be accessed via an IT Learning and Development Management system and L&D portals. A self-managed learning and blended learning approach incorporates e-learning, open learning, line manager coaching and classroom based activities. Available L&D solutions range from technical job specific products to enable staff to meet job requirements to generic skills and leadership development products to enable personal development or to increase staff capabilities.

The list of the available DWP corporate generic skills and business specific technical e-learning and classroom based activities have been placed in the Library.

DWP civil servants have access to all of the L&D solutions shown in the attached files provided subject to line manager approval that there is a business need for the L&D solution and that the training offered is relevant to the individual member of staffs job role. We are unable to provide specific details of which L&D courses have been undertaken by civil servants in the last 12 months as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Where there is no in-house provision for L&D, DWP has procurement processes in place, through which external providers and L&D solutions can be brought in—such as contracts with (a) Parity to provide PRINCE 2 and Programme Management, (b) Happy Computers to provide generic IT solutions e.g. Microsoft Excel, Word etc.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210455]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to age equality, and providing services which embrace diversity and promote equality of opportunity. The Department's published equality schemes 2008 to 2011 (which can be viewed at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/equalityschemes/progress.asp) include commitments on age.

The Department will review its policies and practices on age equality in the light of the Government's proposals for its Equality Bill. The document "A Framework for a Fairer Future—The Equality Bill" published 26 June (Cm 7431 available at http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/frameworkforafairerfuture.doc) outlines the steps which will be taken to streamline and strengthen the law.

In 2006 the Government introduced legislation prohibiting unjustified direct and indirect age discrimination in employment and vocational training. Age Positive seeks to promote the business benefits to employers of employing older people as part of a mixed age workforce and challenge the ageist myths that some employers still believe.

The Department has been putting in place a number of initiatives to improve older people's quality of life. Through LinkAge Plus pilots, we have brought together a range of Government Departments, agencies and voluntary and community organisations to provide a seamless range of services including housing, transport and volunteering.

We are running face to face pilots to test how best to deliver the information and guidance available to older workers or their choice for work and retirement.

Foreign Workers: Industrial Health and Safety

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the incidence of work-related injuries and illnesses to foreign migrant workers employed in the construction and tourism industries in the United Kingdom since January 2005. [214407]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: Current data sources, principally the Labour Force Survey and Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995, do not allow such estimates to be made due to limitations in the quality of data captured regarding foreign or migrant workers. HSE is currently reviewing evidence about the degree of risk to which foreign and migrant workers are exposed.

HSE does have limited data on fatalities to foreign/migrant workers in construction. The reporting year for workplace injury and ill-health statistics runs from 1 April to 31 March. HSE Construction Division statistics show that for the 2005-06 reporting year of 60 worker fatalities in the construction industry, five were foreign/migrant workers and in 2006-07 of 77 (provisional) worker fatalities in the construction industry, eight were foreign/migrant workers.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on age additions to incapacity benefit in each of the last five years. [209319]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefits age additions expenditure

	£ million, nominal terms
2002-03	590
2003-04	600
2004-05	620
2005-06	630
2006-07	640
2007-08 (estimated outturn)	660

Notes:

1. Figures include age additions payable to recipients of incapacity benefit, ex-invalidity benefit and severe disablement allowance.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of each training course offered by Jobcentre Plus was on the latest date for which figures are available; how long each course lasted; and how many people have taken each course since their inception. [202772]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been allocated to Jobcentre Plus for training staff on the Employment and Support Allowance. [211133]

Mr. Timms: The introduction of employment and support allowance and associated budget is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 7 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much has been allocated to Jobcentre Plus for training on Employment and Support Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A range of job roles are affected by Employment and Support Allowance. People in these job roles will complete tailored training designed and developed to provide detailed knowledge of the new Allowance and work focused regime and to operate the new business-IT systems and processes. Our Programme budget to develop and deliver this Learning and Development is £12 million covering two operational years.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Manufacturing Industries: Industrial Health and Safety

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on a possible relationship between contact with semiconductor production materials and certain types of cancers. [216147]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 July 2008]*: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) commissioned its own statisticians or external researchers to undertake the following studies, which have been completed and published:

A study of 'Cancer among current and former workers at National Semiconductor (UK) Ltd, Greenock';

A 'Further update of cancer incidence and cancer mortality in a cohort of semiconductor workers'; and

A 'Feasibility study into the establishment of a retrospective cohort study of workers in the British semiconductor industry'.

A 'Follow-up investigation into cancer at National Semiconductor (UK) Ltd.' is ongoing.

These projects have been the subject of independent scientific peer review during the course of the research and/or in the course of publication in the scientific literature.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have found jobs through the New Deal for *(a)* young people, *(b)* 25 plus, *(c)* disabled people, *(d)* older people and *(e)* lone parents. [211154]

Mr. Timms: The information is in the following table.

Number of individuals who have found jobs through certain new deal programmes, November 2007

	Number of individuals
New deal for young people	806,490
New deal 25 plus	323,330
New deal for lone parents	554,300
New deal for disabled people	172,460
New deal 50 plus	181,140

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many existing claimants of incapacity benefit requested, but were declined, a place on a Pathways to Work programme in each year for which information is available. [211151]

Mr. Timms: All existing incapacity benefits claimants are free to volunteer for a place on the Pathways to Work programme. Between 1 per cent. and 2 per cent. of the caseload do so each year. We have no evidence that existing incapacity benefits customers have been declined a place.

Pathways to Work: Contracts

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the departmental commissioning strategy is applied when transferring work from one contractor to another under Pathways to Work. [214590]

Mr. Timms: The Department's commissioning strategy was published after the award of Pathways to Work contracts. However, in cases where work had to be transferred, for instance because a contractor became insolvent, the same overarching principles of ensuring a consistent and coherent service for the customers would have been applied.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps have been taken to improve service delivery by contractual providers to new clients under Pathways to Work; what contractual provisions he has imposed on A4e in the last 12 months; and what steps his Department has taken to improve the monitoring of contract providers. [214591]

Mr. Timms: The Department has implemented a number of initiatives to improve the management of contracts and of providers to achieve better performance and quality of delivery.

The implementation of a revised Contract Management Framework, setting out the processes for monitoring departmental contracts, enables early identification of poor performance so remedial action can be put in place. A Supplier Relationship Management Team set up in April this year aims to develop strong, positive relationships with providers in order to help us improve delivery of services to customers. The new Commissioning Strategy, published on 28 February this year, includes a Code of Conduct which spells out the key values and principles of behaviour we expect of providers and which are essential for creating healthy, high performing supply chains. Additionally, the introduction of a star rating accreditation system for providers will enable the Department and welfare to work providers to understand and drive up performance.

At the beginning of this year the Department agreed an improvement plan with A4e to address some issues with the delivery and management of their New Deal contract in Manchester. A4e has now successfully addressed all areas of concern.

Pensioners: Social Fund

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take to make access to the Social Fund easier for older people; [216819]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the Social Fund meets the needs of the poorest pensioners. [216820]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have recently carried out some research looking at the interaction of older people with the Social Fund in particular with regard to community care grants. The information obtained from that research is currently being evaluated. When we receive the final evaluation report we will study the recommendations closely before deciding the way forward.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to make progress towards the Government's targets on child poverty reduction; and if he will make a statement. [216457]

Mr. Timms: We have succeeded in arresting and reversing the rising trend of child poverty, with 600,000 children lifted above the line in the past decade. On Budget day we published "Ending Child Poverty: everybody's business", setting out progress to date and the Government's strategy.

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of lone parents living in poverty and entitled to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit or local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214958]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of couples with children with one or both parents working, living in poverty and who were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit or local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214961]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of working lone parents entitled to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit or local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit or local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit or local housing allowance and council tax benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [214962]

(4) how many and what proportion of couples with children, where one or both parents are working, were entitled to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit/local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215917]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the numbers of entitled non-recipients of income-related benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseekers allowance (income-based) are published in the report, income related benefits estimates of take-up in 2006-07; copies of this and earlier reports in the series, are available in the Library.

The published estimates consider each benefit in isolation. No estimates are available for the numbers of people who are entitled to but not receiving combinations of income-related benefits.

State Retirement Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the gross annual cost of increasing the basic state pension to £124.05; and if he will make a statement; [215019]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual cost of increasing the basic state pension to £124.05, net of reductions in income-related benefits and additional tax revenue; and if he will make a statement. [215020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The estimated gross annual additional cost of increasing the full rate of basic state pension to £124.05 per week is around £18 billion in 2008-09.

The estimated net annual additional cost of increasing the full rate of basic state pension to £124.05 per week, net of both reductions in income related benefits and additional tax revenue, is around £13 billion in 2008-09.

Notes:

1. The estimate is in 2008-09 prices and has been rounded to the nearest £billion.
2. The estimate refers to the UK and overseas
3. Reductions in income related benefit expenditure and additional tax revenue have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model

Unemployment: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce *(a)* child poverty and *(b)* worklessness in Regent's Park and Kensington North constituency. [214355]

Mr. Timms: Work is the best route out of poverty. For example, children in working households are much less likely to be in poverty than those living in households where no one is working. The Government have made considerable progress in tackling worklessness through national back to work programmes such as new deal as well as local initiatives like the London Childcare Affordability Pilots.

Since 1997 claimant unemployment in the Regent's Park and Kensington North constituency has fallen by 55 per cent. and the number of lone parents claiming benefit has fallen by 13 per cent. The new deal has helped into work over 5,000 people in the constituency, 1,000 of whom have been helped by the new deal for lone parents. The proportion of children living in families dependent on out of work benefits has fallen by 2.4 percentage points from 45.4 per cent. in 2004 to 43 per cent. in 2007. Information on levels of poverty are not available below Government office regional level.

Winter Fuel Payments

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 431W, on winter fuel payments, whether the extra money referred to will be exclusively for vulnerable groups. [215489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In winter 2008-09 most persons aged 60 or over in the qualifying week (15-21 September 2008) and ordinarily resident in Great Britain will be eligible for the additional payment to help with rising fuel bills. Persons aged 60-79 will receive up to £50 and persons aged 80 or over up to £100. Payments will be made alongside the 2008-09 winter fuel payment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assaults on Police

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on police officers on duty in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England there were in each year since 2000. [210908]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: The requested data are collected on behalf of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and were published each year in their annual report up to 2004-05.

The available data are given in the following table.

There are plans to publish latest figures in the near future.

Assaults[1] on police officers 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2,3]

Force	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Lancashire	294	318	296	331	462	521
England	11,807	[4]11,073	11,237	12,462	[5]11,569	12,796

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series of these data to be published there.

[4] Metropolitan Police was unable to provide data in 2000-01.

[5] Greater Manchester was unable to provide data in 2003-04.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to inform applicants or their legal representatives when their case is being considered by the Case Resolution Directorate, if questionnaires have not been sent to the applicant; and if she will make a statement. [199957]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unresolved asylum applications are not being considered under the New Asylum Model; and by what date she plans to resolve unresolved asylum applications not being considered under the New Asylum Model. [214769]

Mr. Byrne: We have previously estimated that there are around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records of unresolved asylum applications that are not being considered under the New Asylum Model, although this is difficult to assess accurately as many case records are dependants, duplicates or errors. This figure does not therefore equate to numbers of asylum applicants. At the end of November 2007, our total conclusions stand at around 52,000 cases. We have made good progress and remain committed and on track to conclude these cases by summer 2011. Lin Homer will shortly update the Home Affairs Select Committee on performance over the last six months.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dependants are included on asylum applications that are to date unresolved and not being considered under the New Asylum Model; and of these how many are under 18 years of age. [214770]

Mr. Byrne: To analyse the whole pool for this information would incur disproportionate costs. Further, it would be difficult to provide an accurate estimate given the errors present in the database. Of the 52,000 cases that were concluded by November 2007, around 10,000 were dependants, although this gives no indication of the number of dependants in the remaining caseload.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* £5 cash support payments for children under 12 months, *(b)* £3 cash support payments for children aged one to three years and (c) £3 cash support payments for women who are pregnant are paid under support arrangements for those with unresolved asylum applications. [214771]

Mr. Byrne: The latest available information indicates that in the week commencing 23 June 2008 the numbers of extra cash support payments ordered for persons in receipt of support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 were: 1,230 payments for children aged under 12 months, 2,498 payments for children aged one to three years and 74 cash support payments for pregnant women. It is estimated that about 5 per cent. of payments ordered in any one week are not collected.

This is based on management information which is not a national statistic and is subject to change.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cash support payments are paid to *(a)* single people aged between 16 and 18 years and *(b)* single people under 16 years of age under support arrangements for those with unresolved asylum applications. [214772]

Mr. Byrne: The latest available information indicates that in the week commencing 23 June 2008 there were 709 persons aged 16 or 17 years and 10,784 persons aged under 16 in receipt of support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for whom cash payments were ordered. It is estimated that about 5 per cent. of payments ordered in any one week are not collected.

This is based on management information which is not a national statistic and is subject to change. It does not cover unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are supported by local authorities.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms her Department has in place to monitor the treatment of failed asylum seekers after they return to their home country. [215087]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency does not proactively monitor the treatment of individual failed asylum seekers who return to their home country unless there are exceptional circumstances that warrant doing so. Rather, we do not return those who are at risk.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on asylum, how many dependants of asylum seekers received indefinite leave to remain as a result of the October 2003 exercise. [215245]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the dependants of asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on principal asylum claimants who were granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is available from Table 12.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Asylum: Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons from Somalia *(a)* arrived in the UK, *(b)* sought asylum, *(c)* were granted refugee status and *(d)* were deported to Somalia in each of the last five years. [214618]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The latest available information requested is shown in the following tables. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. Removals do not necessarily relate to refused applications decided in the same period. Destination data for persons removed from the UK have only been collated since 2004, so this information is not available for earlier years. Removal figures only relate to those removed to Somalia and not to other destinations. Leave to enter the UK data are not yet available for 2007.

Information on immigration control is published annually and asylum information is published annually and quarterly. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Total Somalia nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom, 2002 to 2006[1]

	Number of journeys
2002	10,200
2003	7,460
2004	5,330
2005	5,610
2006	3,540

[1] *Provisional figures. Rounded to three significant figures.*

Asylum applications[1] *received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions*[2] *on applications, 2003 to 2007, nationals of Somalia. Principal applicants*

	Applications		
	Total	Port	In country
2003	5,090	660	4,430
2004	2,585	305	2,280
2005	1,760	250	1,510
2006[3]	1,845	245	1,600
2007[3]	1,620	265	1,350

	Decisions									
	Total decisions	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of ELR*[4]	*Grants of HP*[4]	*Grants of DL*[4]	*Total refusals*	*Certified refusals*	*Other refusals*	*3rd ctry refusals*[5]	*Non-compliance refusals*[6]
2003	6,050	1,665	160	5	390	3,835	140	3,140	90	465
2004	3,275	455	n/a	10	455	2,355	[7]—	1,930	235	190
2005	1,850	660	n/a	5	190	1,000	0	830	100	70
2006[3]	1,725	655	n/a	5	160	905	[7]—	695	160	50
2007[3]	1,615	795	n/a	5	105	710	5	595	80	35

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5.

[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Provisional figures.

[4] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.

[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.

[7] 1 or 2.

Note:

n/a = not applicable.

Source:

Immigration Research and Statistics

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] [2] of Somali asylum applicants, excluding dependants removed to Somalia, 2004 to 2007[3]

	Number of removals
	Somali asylum applicants removed to Somalia
2004	25
2005	15
2006[4]	40
2007[4]	35

[1] Includes persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration.

[2] Removals since 2005 include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage.

[4] Provisional figures.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications the Government has received from citizens of Zimbabwe in each of the last five years; how many of those applications were seeking protection from political persecution in each year; and how many people in both categories were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused leave to remain in Britain. [215841]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows total Zimbabwean principal asylum applications and initial decisions, for each of the years 2003-07. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. The requested information on those seeking protection from political persecution is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Copies of asylum publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2003 to 2007, nationals of Zimbabwe

Principal applications

	Applications			Decisions					
					Of which:				
Zimbabwe	*Total*	*Port*	*In country*	*Total decision*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of ELR*[3]	*Grants of HP*[3]	*Grants of DL*[3]	*Refusals*
2003	3,295	715	2,580	4,190	875	10	5	20	3,285
2004	2,065	395	1,665	2,560	220	n/a	*	25	2,310
2005	1,075	165	910	1,040	80	n/a	*	15	945
2006[4]	1,650	165	1,480	1,680	140	n/a	*	30	1,510
2007[4]	1,755	265	1,490	1,425	250	n/a	*	20	1,155

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (* = 1 or 2).

[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

[4] Provisional figures.

Source:

Immigration Research and Statistics

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis those routes and carriers which will utilise other passenger information data through e-Borders were selected. [215510]

Mr. Byrne: The capture of other passenger information (OPI) is determined by multi-agency assessment that analyses the risks posed from a range of different routes. The route selection assessment will also be capable of adapting to and underpinning emerging risks.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a fully automated authority to carry capability to be included in the eBorders programme. [215512]

Mr. Byrne: Once the first: manual, phase has been implemented, there will be an opportunity to assess the impact and costs, before consideration will be given to seeking the required funding to implement the fully automated response.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects all flights into the UK to be covered by manual authority to carry capabilities. [215513]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the public consultation for the e-Borders programme, the Government have committed to a separate public consultation on the Authority to Carry scheme.

Following that consultation, and in due course, the Government will bring forward the regulations required to implement an Authority to Carry scheme under s124 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 for parliamentary approval.

Community Relations: Extremism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what her Department's share of the pledged £12.5 million to help prevent extremism in communities will be spent; and over what period of time her Department's share of the funding will be spent; [210223]

(2) how the pledged £12.5 million to help prevent extremism in communities will be divided between Departments involved. [210224]

Mr. McNulty: The £12.5 million from the Home Office to help prevent extremism in communities will be spent on funding projects specifically to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation. New schemes will include:

> £1 million for the Home Office to extend police-led multi agency projects to identify and support vulnerable individuals at risk of being targeted by violent extremists.
>
> £3.5 million to Youth Offending Teams and Youth Secure Establishments on new work to prevent violent extremism, focused on supporting young individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system.
>
> £7.25 million to the National Offender Management Service and partner agencies to do further work in prisons and the community to tackle vulnerability to radicalisation among offenders.
>
> £750,000 for the Home Office to fund further grassroots projects aimed at tackling radicalisation.

All of the £12.5 million pledged will be spent in the 2008-09 financial year.

Counter-Terrorism Bill

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information she plans to provide to the House under her proposals to detain terrorist suspects for up to 42 days before each decision on a case; and what assessment she has made of the effect of giving such information on national security and the confidentiality of intelligence. [210037]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* Under Clause 27 of the Counter-Terrorism Bill, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary must, within two days or as soon as practicable after making an order that the reserve power is exercisable, make a written statement declaring that she is satisfied:

> that a grave exceptional terrorist threat has occurred or is occurring;
>
> the reserve power is needed for the purpose of investigating the threat and bringing to justice those responsible;
>
> the need for that power is urgent; and
>
> the provision in the order is compatible with ECHR.

The statement may include any other information relevant to making the order. At the same time the written statement is made, Parliament will receive a copy of the independent legal advice obtained under Clause 25 of the Bill.

On making the order my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary would notify the chairs of the Home Affairs Committee, the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Intelligence and Security Committee and provide them with a copy of the report of the DPP and police on the operational need for the extension and the full legal advice obtained under Clause 25 of the Bill. This would be provided on Privy Council terms.

We assess that the provision of the information outlined above will not have any adverse impact on national security or the confidentiality of intelligence.

Crime: Business

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department was consulted about plans for the national staff dismissal register created by Action Against Business Crime while her Department was part-funding the organisation. [214535]

Mr. Byrne: The National Staff Dismissal Register is a commercial initiative of the Action Against Business Crime Group (AABC).

The Home Office, between 2004 and 2007, provided more than £1 million of funding to the group to set up and maintain 120 business crime reduction partnerships in towns and cities across England and Wales. All Home Office funding ceased in March 2007.

The Home Office has not been consulted about the setting up of the National Staff Dismissal Register and will not be involved in any way in its operation.

Crime: Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases CCTV evidence was used to detect a crime in each year since 1998. [215844]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally. There are a number of published studies on the effectiveness of CCTV in prevention and detection. One study, "Effect of urban closed circuit television on assault injury and violence detection" (Injury Prevention 2003; 9: 312-316), demonstrates the effectiveness of CCTV in the detection of violent crime. A copy of the paper has been placed in the Library.

We plan to develop standardised national key performance indicators relating to the use of public space CCTV across all associated agencies, including CCTV operators, the police and the courts through the National CCTV Strategy.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what applications have been made for authorisation for demonstrations in Parliament Square on 15 June 2008 under section 133 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; and if she will make a statement. [211093]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: According to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, there was an application for an authorisation for a demonstration in Parliament Square under section 133 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act on 15 June by the Stop the War Coalition.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how frequently her Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213414]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office Land and Buildings assets are restated to current value using professional valuations every five years and in the intervening years by the use of published indices appropriate to the type of land and building. Further information can be found in the notes to the Department's published resource accounts.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by her Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if she will make a statement. [213706]

Mr. Byrne: Records are kept of new builds and major refurbishments above £1 million. There were none in this period. In 2007-08 two new builds were acquired through leases where design and construction was to the Department's specification. One of these was rated BREEAM Excellent, the other Very Good. Both contained leading edge sustainability measures, but one lost points because of the requirement to provide car parking to a large number of operational staff working shifts from a location with limited public transport.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by her Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213776]

Mr. Byrne: My Department records the number of its new builds and major refurbishments completed that are over £1 million in value. There were no such direct new builds or refurbishments recorded in this period.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by her Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215171]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting system does not identify separately expenditure on cancelled conferences. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* permanent staff and *(c)* temporary staff work for (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [215040]

Mr. Byrne: Details of permanent and temporary staff numbers for Home Office HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB can be found on page 98 of the 2008 Home Office departmental report. The report is available on the Home Office website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08

Dogs

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown of the training and running costs for her Department and its agencies associated with products of animal origin detector dogs and their handlers in each of the last five years. [215031]

Mr. Byrne: Details of the number of products of animal origin detector dogs and a breakdown of training and running costs associated with these dogs and their handlers for the years 2003 to 2007 inclusive are as follows:

	Number of dogs	Cost of outsourced training per course for up to four handlers (including supply of dogs) (£)	In-house training (four months per dog) (months)	Cost of acquiring dogs (some dogs were gifted to the Department) (£)	Running costs (handler, food, vet, transport, etc.) (£)
2003	2	15,000	4	[1]—	92,000
2004	6	30,000	8	5,000	234,000
2005	10	[2]—	8	11,300	306,000
2006	11	[2]—	[3]—	[1]—	296,000
2007	11	[2]—	[3]—	[1]—	296,000

[1] No dogs acquired
[2] No outsourced training
[3] No in-house training

This represents hard costs of:

	£
2003	107,000
2004	269,000
2005	317,300
2006	296,000
2007	296,000

The number of dogs column relates to dogs and handlers in situ in those years.

Driving Under Influence: Testing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on *(a)* training given to police officers in undertaking (i) field impairment tests and (ii) preliminary impairment tests and *(b)* the frequency of refresher training; and if she will make a statement. [214752]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not issue formal guidance to police officers nationally on field impairment tests, or refresher training. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Department of Transport run a mandatory field impairment test (FIT) and drug recognition training (DRT) for police officers who wish to be authorised to conduct impairment testing in compliance with the Road Traffic Act 1988. Successful completion is based on the candidate's ability to pass an exam and demonstrate competence in impairment testing.

Currently, only Hampshire Constabulary and Northamptonshire police are authorised by ACPO to provide formal FIT and DRT to police officers.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her policy is on whether the 999 emergency telephone number may be used to report all categories of crime; and if she will make a statement; [215714]

(2) what recent guidance her Department has issued to police forces on the categories of crime which may be reported via the 999 telephone number. [215727]

Mr. McNulty: National call grades and definitions for use by the Police Service are covered by the Association of Chief Police Officers' National Call Handling Standards (NCHS). The standards indicate some minor crimes (for example, a stolen mobile telephone, vandalism, graffiti, abandoned cars and less serious types of antisocial behaviour) can be reported to the police through alternative mediums such as police force websites, confidential telephone hotlines or in person.

The NCHS does not record the category of crime, but is designed to assist police call handlers define whether contact made should be treated as emergency or a non-emergency. An emergency response will invariably result in an immediate police response; a non-emergency contact means that the police response may not be immediate, and may encompass a range of solutions, some of which will not involve the attendance of a police officer at the scene.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people identified by her Department as having been ineligible for a visa for entry into the United Kingdom were subsequently granted a visa incorrectly in the last five years and then *(a)* were apprehended at port, *(b)* were granted entry into the UK and subsequently apprehended, *(c)* entered the UK and are at large and *(d)* of whereabouts unknown. [215094]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214911]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting systems do not identify separately the cost of food, nor the country of origin, so this information could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Fraud: Social Security Benefits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was recouped in fines for benefit fraud in England and Wales in each of the last two years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [215023]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There were 15,088 successful prosecutions for benefit fraud and sanctions by the Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities in 2005-06 and 12,605 in 2006-07, the latest years for which figures are available.

It is not possible, using current IT systems, to break down the value of financial penalties imposed or subsequently collected for individual offences.

Immigration

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency will make a decision on the immigration status of Mr. Christian Ofori-Addo of Torquay. [206678]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 1 July 2008.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which categories of immigration will not be covered by the points-based system. [214761]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* The points-based system will rationalise and simplify our existing system for controlling immigration by migrants who wish to work or study in the UK, so that only the migrants we need are allowed to come to Britain.

The new system will not cover immigration routes that are unrelated to work or study. Thus it will not apply to visitors or to those applying as the family members of people settled in the UK, such as spouses. It will not apply to people seeking asylum or humanitarian protection here, or to those applying to stay into the UK after service with HM forces.

Finally, there are several routes on which consultation is ongoing outside the PBS. These are Commonwealth citizens seeking to come here under the UK Ancestry provisions, people applying to stay here under the Long Residence Rules, those exercising rights of access to a child and retired persons of independent means.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to create a dedicated EU passports channel at the UK border and immigration control points in the *(a)* Gare du Midi, Brussels and *(b)* Gare du Nord, Paris; and if she will make a statement. [215091]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency currently operates four control points at the Eurostar terminal at Brussels Gare du Midi and six control points at the terminal at Paris Gare du Nord. In view of increasing passenger numbers the Gare du Nord is currently being redeveloped to provide eight control points.

The efficiency of passenger clearance at the UK border is kept under review, and changes are made where they are considered to benefit passenger throughput, without having an adverse impact upon border security. The majority of passengers travelling to the UK on Eurostar services from Brussels and Paris are nationals of EU countries and all passengers, including those who are non-EU nationals, can be dealt with quickly without any segregation. There is consequently no dedicated EU channel at either station and currently no plan to introduce such a channel.

Immigration Officers: Heathrow Airport

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what minimum staffing levels her Department has put in place for front line immigration officers at Heathrow Airport; and on how many shifts these levels have not been met in the last 12 months. [214578]

Mr. Byrne: Staffing requirements for all ports, including Heathrow, are calculated using a workforce planning methodology which takes into account information provided by port operators on scheduling, predicted passenger loads and nationalities, and estimates of transaction times. Therefore every shift size is calculated individually.

If there are a large number of cases being handled by a particular terminal, or a number of flights arrive together unexpectedly, local managers will seek to re-deploy staff from other tasks or from other terminals to meet the additional demand.

There are some 13,000 different sized shifts per year at Heathrow and so the exact statistics which have been requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the business. It is also possible that this information could prove useful to those people seeking to circumvent our border controls, and so to release it might compromise the security of the UK border.

Immigration: Heathrow Airport

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the capacity is of the short-term holding facility at Heathrow Airport; and on how many occasions it has been *(a)* reached and *(b)* breached. [214577]

Mr. Byrne: The capacity of each of the short-term holding facilities at Heathrow airport is as follows:

	Number
Terminal 1	45
Terminal 2	39
Terminal 3	42
Terminal 4	40
Terminal 5	88
Queen's Building	36

The remainder of the information is not readily available and provision of a reply would be at disproportionate cost.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with her Sri Lankan counterpart on preventing the transfer of funds from the UK to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka. [215000]

Mr. McNulty: The Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE), also known as the Tamil Tigers, have been listed as proscribed as a terrorist organisation from 2001 under the Terrorism Act 2000. It is a criminal offence for a person to belong to or to invite support for the LTTE in the UK. The UK Government is in contact with the Sri Lankan authorities, law enforcement agencies and other Government Departments concerning preventing the transfer of funds from this country to the LTTE in Sri Lanka.

Members: Correspondence

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State (Borders and Immigration) plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Salisbury of 9 May 2008 on the visit of a Cambodian national to the UK. [214455]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member for Salisbury on 27 June 2008.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Manchester Central of 25 April 2008, re TB, reference M7953/8. [216035]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier) wrote to my hon. Friend on 2 July 2008.

Mr. K.M.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reach a decision in the case of Mr. K.M (Home Office ref M1198907). [215057]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend on 30 June 2008.

Passports: Biometrics

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the *(a)* range, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* cost of the antenna on the new biometric passport. [215690]

Meg Hillier: The purpose of the antenna in the UK biometric passport is to allow the chip to communicate with border control readers in accordance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. In terms of range, these requirements call for the biometric passport to have a read range of up to 10 centimetres from the reader.

It is not possible to separately identify the cost of the antenna as it is part of an integrated component provided by the chip silicon manufacturer.

Police: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* special constables and *(c)* police community support officers were based in Bournemouth in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215340]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* The information requested is published annually in the supplementary tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales'. The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

The most recent publication contains data as at 31 March 2007, and gives details of police officers and police community support officers. Details of specials constables are not included.

As at 31 March 2007, there were 315 full-time equivalent police officers, 36 full-time equivalent police community support officers and 74 special constables in Bournemouth.

Data for 31 March 2008 will be published on 22 July 2008.

Police: Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much sick pay was paid to police officers in each of the last five years; what proportion of police staffing expenditure this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement; [215980]

(2) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by police officers was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [215981]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not collected centrally. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1322W, to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

Police: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to improve policing in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire since 1997. [215823]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1997, policing in Staffordshire, including Tamworth, has improved with additional investment in officer numbers, the introduction of police community support officers and neighbourhood policing teams and national initiatives designed to improve citizen focussed police and reduce police bureaucracy.

We are taking forward the recommendations made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, primarily in areas of overhauling the processes around Stop and Account, the RIPA review, and the use of technology to increase efficiency. Staffordshire constabulary is one of the four forces piloting radical new ways of reducing paperwork following Sir Ronnie's review.

In terms of investment for Staffordshire police, the sum of general government support has risen from £110.3 million to £114.3 million, an increase of 3.6 per cent. Staffordshire had 2,271 police officers on 30 September 2007, an increase of 60 since 1997. There were also 225 police community support officers (PCSOs) and 1,293 police staff (an increase of 530 since 1997). Tamworth, part of the Trent Valley Division had 50 Police Community Support Officers and 417 police officers on 31 March 2007, an increase of 25 since March 2004.

The Police Performance Assessment of 2006-07 showed Staffordshire to have built on the strong performance evident in the 2006 baseline assessment. The report shows strong delivery of performance including: two "excellents" for tackling serious crime and protecting the public and implementing neighbourhood policing; as well as four "goods" for tackling crime, protecting vulnerable people, satisfaction and fairness, and resources and efficiency.

Revenue and Customs: Shipping

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ships were searched by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland ports in each of the last three years. [214985]

Mr. Byrne: The number of ships searched in Northern Ireland ports by HM Revenue and Customs specialist search teams in each of the last three years is as follows:

Year ending 31 March	*Number*
2006	4
2007	0
2008	0

In addition to the searches carried out by these specialist teams, non-specialist UK Border Agency staff, including the Cutter fleet, also challenge and board commercial vessels arriving in UK ports, including Northern Ireland. These challenges and interventions vary in depth according to specific circumstances.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ships were searched by HM Revenue and Customs in UK ports in each of the last three years. [214986]

Mr. Byrne: The number of ships searched in UK ports by HM Revenue and Customs specialist search teams in each of the last three years is as follows:

Year ending 31 March	*Number*
2006	333
2007	385
2008	505

In addition to the searches carried out by these specialist teams, non-specialist UK Border Agency staff, including the Cutter fleet, also challenge and board commercial vessels arriving in UK ports. These challenges and interventions vary in depth according to specific circumstances.

Terrorism

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Islamic experts her Department employs to work on the Prevent aspect of the CONTEST strategy. [174570]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The Home Office does not employ any Islamic experts. Expert advice on Islam and other religions is obtained from independent experts selected according to the precise matter at issue.

The Home Office does have access to expert advice from the three Muslim advisers employed by the Communities and Local Government Department, as well as external partners.

Terrorism Act 2000

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she received the independent reviewer's report on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 in 2007. [215256]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The first draft of Lord Carlile's report was received by the Home Office on 12 May. It was then circulated to stakeholders for them to check for factual accuracy and the last amendments were received from Lord Carlile on 15 June.

Terrorism: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has allocated to institutions working to counter terrorism in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District in 2008-09. [213334]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the Home Office's forecast spending on protecting the public from terrorism for the current year and the CSR period are set out in chapter 5 of the 2008 departmental report, which can be found on the Home Office website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08

Home Office spend on counter-terrorism is not split and managed by allocation to constituency or district boundaries. Allocation of funding by the Home Office alone would not reflect the true expenditure on this work as other Government Departments and agencies contribute to their delivery. Further information on total Government spending on counter-terrorism is not held by the Home Office.

UK Border Agency: Labour Turnover

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staff turnover rate was of each grade of immigration personnel in the UK Border Agency and its predecessor organisations in each of the last five years. [214576]

Mr. Byrne: The turnover rates for employees of UKBA, (this does not include UK Visas), and its predecessor organisations, for each grade, for each year, for which records are held, are shown in the following table:

	Turnover rate		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Administrative Assistant	18.90	11.20	9.62
Assistant Immigration Officer	3.28	3.84	5.42

	Turnover rate		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Administrative Officer	8.84	7.78	9.01
Chief Immigration Officer	2.09	1.95	2.85
Executive Officer	6.22	3.57	4.05
Grade 6	30.34	21.43	4.41
Grade 7	16.31	8.73	2.77
Higher Executive Officer	6.95	4.58	3.33
Immigration Inspector	2.74	2.20	3.49
Immigration Officer	3.12	1.77	2.25
Senior Civil Service	45.24	55.26	10.87
Senior Executive Officer	10.31	6.12	1.61
Miscellaneous	67.09	66.30	
Total	7.91	5.57	5.24

Notes:

1. The figures shown in this table are for headcount.
2. The turnover rate has been calculated on the average number of employees in the year. The information is given by grade equivalent.

UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library telephone and fax numbers of desk officers at the UK Visas with the UK Border Agency upon which hon. Members may contact a member of staff directly or leave a message which will affect a response; and if she will make a statement. [206620]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The UK Border Agency has a dedicated MPs' Hotline telephone service for hon. Members. The Hotline operates from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Thursday and 10.30 am to 6.00 pm on Fridays.

The telephone and fax numbers have been placed in the Library of the House.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213775]

Mr. Byrne: While there is no FLEGT licensing schemes yet in place, the Home Office actively seeks to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. Data on quantity are not recorded centrally and there is no longer a requirement for expenditure to be recorded. We have data for two years within the last five: these are set out in the following table.

		£
	Value of timber from legal and sustainable sources	*Value of timber products from legal and sustainable sources.*
2003-04	1,252,000	3,489,986
2004-05	292,000	1,209,000

[1] Includes Prison Service

TREASURY

Banking Services: Construction

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Government Commerce is taking to promote the use of project bank accounts. [214033]

Angela Eagle: OGC, an independent Office of HM Treasury, together with the Public Sector Construction Client's Forum (PSCCF) and key industry stakeholders, developed and published the Guide to best "Fair Payment" practices on 19 September 2007. The use of Project Bank Accounts (PBA) is one of a number of approaches recommended in that document to facilitate improved payment practice.

Since the start of January 2008 all new central Government projects have been required to adhere to the OGC guidance and have a Fair Payment charter in place (that payments are made within 30 days). Whether this is achieved through the use of a Project Bank Account, or by other means, will need to be considered by clients on a case-by-case basis.

OGC funded the development of training on the use of Project Bank Accounts and promoted their use at a series of roadshows around the country. OGC is encouraging Departments to identify suitable projects where Project Bank Accounts could be used effectively. OGC will be monitoring the take-up of Project Bank Accounts until 2010 and will publish its findings soon after.

Child Benefit

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time for new applications for child benefit to be processed was in the last period for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of trends in the average time; how many applicants have not had their child benefit payments activated; and what estimate he has made of the amount outstanding for payment. [213997]

Jane Kennedy: Information on average times is not available.

In 2007-08 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) processed around two-thirds of all new child benefit claims within five working days and over 90 per cent. within 36 working days.

As of the end of May 2008, about 90,000 child benefit claims were on hand.

Child Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families received child tax credit in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London local authority area in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2008. [216664]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the average number of recipient families with tax credits, by country, region and local authority for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant financial year. These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2007-08 is not yet available because awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, as at 5 April 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. April 2008". This is also available on the HMRC website at the same address.

We do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families have taken up childcare vouchers in each year since the scheme's inception. [216665]

Jane Kennedy: There are no official data collected in relation to the number of employers who offer child care voucher schemes or the number of employees or families who receive them. Employers who offer child care vouchers are not required to provide these data to HMRC. This is consistent with the wider objective of reducing burdens on business.

HMRC commissions periodic research into the level of uptake among employers and employees. The latest research was the survey conducted by the National Centre for Social Research who published their report in December 2006.

This research estimates that 36 per cent. of employees have access to employer supported child care.

The full report can be seen on the HMRC website at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report23-final.pdf

Departmental Billing

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure the Office of Government Commerce publishes the names of central Government construction clients who do not pay their suppliers within 30 days. [215866]

Angela Eagle: Each Department should publish such performance data, for all its procurement activity, in its annual report and accounts.

OGC does not keep a central record of departmental performance across central Government.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of central Government construction clients pay their suppliers within 30 days. [215867]

Angela Eagle: OGC does not hold a central record of departmental performance across central Government. However, Departments are required to publish a summary of their payment performance for all their procurement activity in their annual report and accounts.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) monitors the implementation of the fair payment initiative's commitment to more efficient payment procedures by central government construction clients; and when the OGC intends to report on the matter to his Department. [215868]

Angela Eagle: To measure progress in implementing the fair payment initiative OGC has commissioned an independent body to report on progress through to 2010, as announced in July 2007 and available at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/news_2007_7409.asp.

OGC will subsequently publish the findings.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have access to his Department's IT infrastructure at their home. [216384]

Angela Eagle: Our records show that 564 staff are able access the Treasury's IT infrastructure from their homes.

Economic and Monetary Union

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions in domestic legislation enable the UK to take action pursuant to measures adopted by the Council of Ministers under article 59 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to safeguard the operation of economic and monetary union from serious difficulties caused by movements of capital to and from third countries; whether *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the Channel Islands and *(c)* the Isle of Man are considered third countries for the purposes of this article; what voting provisions will apply to this article in the Council of Ministers following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon; if he will make it his policy to oppose any proposed measure under this article which would affect the liquidity and competitiveness of the UK's financial system; and if he will make a statement. [203260]

Kitty Ussher: The Government are committed to promoting economic prosperity by maintaining financial stability, internationally and in the UK, promoting global prosperity, and promoting a fair and efficient financial sector. The Government would take these objectives into consideration before they opposed or accepted any proposed measure.

The Enterprise Act 2002 covers a range of enterprise measures aimed at strengthening the UK's competition framework, including monitoring and control of inwards investment from third countries. This builds on competition and inward investment controls for third countries laid out in the 1998 Competition Act through specific measures to act upon anti-competitive agreements, cartels and abuses of a dominant position.

Neither *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the Channel Islands nor *(c)* the Isle of Man are considered third countries for the purposes of article 59 of the treaty establishing the European Community.

Article 66 of the treaty of Lisbon concerns the functioning of the European Union. Under this Article, the Council of Ministers would act by qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Central Bank.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210462]

Angela Eagle: The Government set out their plans for taking a power to ban age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services on 26 June 2008.

To help business and public authorities prepare, and to make sure the law does not prevent justified differences in treatment for different age groups, there will be further consultation on the design of the legislation and a transition period before the new legal protections from age discrimination are implemented.

Within HM Treasury, officials are currently developing a Single Equality Scheme that will include details on how the Department will promote age equality for all its employees. This will be published in due course.

Financial Action Task Force

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the UK, Brazil and the Netherlands joint paper presented to the June 2008 plenary of the Financial Action Task Force. [216218]

Kitty Ussher: The UK, Brazil and Netherlands joint paper that was presented at the June 2008 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary is an internal FATF paper and not publicly available.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has the power to require the Financial Services Authority to undertake consultations. [215258]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is operationally independent of Government. This statutory independence means that the Government does not have any control over the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Office of Government Commerce review on procurement to be published. [216900]

Angela Eagle: OGC carries out a number of reviews on procurement.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 913W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library a list of the unique numbers given to each live locality within each billing authority area. [211668]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA has developed a capability to retrieve this information at reasonable cost and so a list, giving the position on 4 April 2008, has been placed in the Library.

Insurance: Fees and Charges

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the Association of British Insurers to discuss the level of administrative and cancellation fees charged by the insurance industry. [215712]

Kitty Ussher: Insurance firms are regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which was established by the Government in 2001 to act as the UK's independent financial regulator. As part of their supervision of insurance firms, the FSA is responsible for ensuring that customers are treated fairly.

Customers who are unable to resolve complaints with insurance firms regarding administrative and cancellation fees can make a complaint free of charge to the independent Financial Ombudsman Service.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet members of the Competition Commission to discuss the fees charged by the insurance industry. [215713]

Kitty Ussher: The Competition Commission was set up by the Government in 1999 to act as an independent body to help ensure healthy competition between companies in the UK.

The Competition Commission only initiates inquiries after referral from another body such as the Office of Fair Trading.

Meat: Smuggling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much bush meat was seized on arrival into the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [215818]

Jane Kennedy: There is no precise definition of bush meat, which is generally understood to be the meat of wild animals hunted for food. Central Government statistical records of illegal meat seizures do not separately identify bush meat. HM Revenue and Customs record seizures of illegally imported meat and animal products as "bush meat" where this was how the owners described the meat to customs officials. Their central records show the total quantities of such meat seized on arrival in Great Britain for each of the last five financial years:

	Weight seized (kg)
2003-04	1,748
2004-05	2,812
2005-06	2,534
2006-07	3,399
2007-08	1,506

Money Laundering

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation was undertaken on the process of listing Chartered bodies who are able to regulate their members under the money laundering regulations; [216131]

(2) what criteria were used to determine whether Chartered bodies could be added to a list of those bodies able to regulate their members under the money laundering regulations; who devised the criteria; and who decided who would be eligible for the list; [216132]

(3) for what reasons the Certified Public Accounts Association has not been recognised as regulator for its members under the new money laundering regulations. [216133]

Kitty Ussher: HM Treasury undertook two public consultations, in July 2006 and January 2007, on the implementation of the EU's Third Money Laundering Directive in the UK. These included information on proposed supervisory arrangements for the new Money Laundering Regulations, which came into force in December 2007.

The Third Money Laundering Directive requires that bodies supervising compliance with a member state's money laundering regime must have adequate powers to do so, including the power to compel the production of any information in order to monitor such compliance and to perform checks. The directive also requires that supervisory bodies must have adequate resources to undertake the task. HM Treasury officials assessed the applications of potential supervisors against these requirements, taking into account a range of criteria, such as a body's experience of standard setting, compliance monitoring, and disciplining members; as well as their membership size, resource capacity, public interest objectives and relationships with other relevant bodies. Both the previous Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the hon. Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), and I approved the final supervisory arrangements. The Certified Public Accountants Association (CPAA) did not apply for supervisory status during either consultation period.

Since their coming into force, HM Treasury have sought to avoid altering the new regulations, or the supervisory regime, in order to allow business adequate time to get used to the new requirements. As a matter of good practice, the Treasury intends to review the supervisory arrangements in 2009, once the regulations have been in force for a reasonable period.

My officials corresponded with the CPAA during 2007 and 2008, explaining the policy approach taken on supervisory arrangements and the appointment of supervisors. Although the CPAA is not a supervisor for the purposes of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, they are able, if they so wish, to work with the relevant supervisors to assist their members' compliance with the regulations.

National Debt: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt *(a)* received from and *(b)* returned to the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1997. [216524]

Angela Eagle: I understand the question to relate to *(a)* the annual total of lottery operator-related income advanced to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND) by the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF), and *(b)* total annual drawdowns from the investment account made by distributing bodies.

The figures (in £ millions) set out in the following table are from 2000-01; for figures dating back before this period please contact Department for Culture, Media and Sport directly.

National Lottery Distribution Fund

£ million

	Received from	*Drawdown by*
2000-01	1,540.7	1,855.1
2001-02	1,652.8	1,709.6
2002-03	1,381.7	1,893.3
2003-04	1,310.4	1,912.6
2004-05	1,353.5	1,704.3
2005-06	1,381.5	1,843.6
2006-07	1,209.1	1,616.0
2007-08	1,203.0	1,429.9

National Minimum Wage

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the savings in working tax credit of an increase in the adult rate of the national minimum wage of *(a)* 30 pence, *(b)* 50 pence, *(c)* £1, *(d)* £1.50 and *(e)* £2.00; [215585]

(2) what estimate he has made of the (a) gross, (b) net costs and (c) savings to his Department of an increase in the adult rate of the national minimum wage of (i) 30 pence, (ii) 50 pence, (iii) £1, (iv) £1.50 and (v) £2.00. [215586]

Kitty Ussher: Changes in expenditure and revenue are not only dependent on the level of the national minimum wage, but also on the macroeconomic effects of an increase to the national minimum wage.

It is very difficult to reliably estimate the savings induced by an increase of the minimum wage.

Public Expenditure: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Government *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure in the Thames Gateway area there was in each year since 1 April 2003, broken down by local government administrative area; and if he will make a statement. [216831]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not publish expenditure data at the local authority level. The lowest level at which data for Government expenditure is available is by region. Thames Gateway cuts across three different regions including the East, South East and London. Total identifiable expenditure on services in these regions can be found in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008 (HC 489). Please see the following link for an electronic copy of PESA 2008.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/7/pesa0809_chap09.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices have been closed in *(a)* London, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* the South West, *(d)* the East, *(e)* the East Midlands, *(f)* the West Midlands, *(g)* Yorkshire and Humber, *(h)* the North West, *(i)* the North East, *(j)* Scotland, *(k)* Wales and *(l)* Northern Ireland since 1997. [213617]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC was formed in April 2005 from the two former revenue Departments, Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise, in order to achieve synergies and efficiencies through modernisation of its business operations and rationalisation of its estate.

HMRC have around 85,000 staff currently working in over 600 offices across nearly 300 towns and cities. HMRC's workforce change programme is designed to modernise its operations by restructuring its office accommodation in line with future business needs.

Information on office closures from 1997 to March 2001 is available only at disproportionate cost. The number of HM Revenue and Customs offices, and previously Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise offices, that have been closed in each region since April 2001 is given in the following table:

Region	*Offices closed from April 2001*
London	37
South East	35
South West	24
East	18
East Midlands	6
West Midlands	17
Yorkshire and Humber	7
North West	24
North East	12
Scotland	20
Wales	6
Northern Ireland	5
Total	211

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of service for staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisations is at each of its locations in Scotland. [216802]

Jane Kennedy: The average length of service (in the civil service) of the staff currently employed by HM Revenue and Customs at each of its locations in Scotland is shown in the following table.

Location	*Average length of service (years)*
Aberdeen	22.97
Ayr	25.29
Bathgate	2.83
Buckie	19.72
Coatbridge	26.1
Cumbernauld	13.81
Dumbarton	19.83
Dumfries	24.89
Dundee	7.6
Dunfermline	27.97
Dunoon	21.92
East Kilbride	14.17
Edinburgh	20.01
Elgin	28.56
Falkirk	26.46
Galashiels	27.35
Glasgow	15.36
Glenrothes	16.55
Grangemouth	23.69
Greenock	19.05
Hamilton	24.91
Hawick	25.22
Inverness	22.29
Irvine	26.74
Kirkcaldy	27.14
Lerwick	36.72
Livingston	8.99
Motherwell	24.12
Oban	36.31
Paisley	24.02
Perth	25.07
Peterhead	25.33
Prestwick	35.61
Rothesay	25.08
Stirling	23.45
Ullapool	30.02
Wick	24.12

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the running costs were for each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [216803]

Jane Kennedy: A specific breakdown for each office cannot be supplied due for reasons of commercial sensitivity relating to the accommodation and facility contract between HMRC and its estate partner, Mapeley.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 708W.

Revenue and Customs: Vacancies

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs posts at Civil Service Grade 6 and above are vacant. [216622]

Jane Kennedy: On 2 July 2008 there were 21 advertised vacancies for posts at G6 and above in HMRC.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which overseas destinations were visited by HM Revenue and Customs staff in the financial year 2007-08; how many visits were made to each destination; and what the cost to the public purse was of visits to each destination. [215384]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC currently have around 85,000 staff. From information available, the total cost for overseas business travel made by HMRC employees for the financial period 2007-08 is £1,751,257.

The duties of HMRC staff cover a wide range of posts and some roles in particular require overseas travel and accommodation in support of key departmental objectives—for example, EU policy development, enforcement of prohibition and restrictions and mutual administrative assistance.

In relation to hotels booked through HMRC's travel contract, the contract commenced in April 2007. However, the hotel element of the contract was not implemented until July 2007. Therefore the figures provided in the total above relate to the period July 2007 to March 2008 only. The spend for bookings in the period April 2007 to June 2007 is not available except at disproportionate cost.

For policy and operational reasons we are unable to disclose which overseas destinations HMRC employees travel to.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the publication of the HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change proposals on 11 June, what the estimated accommodation cost savings are for *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs Cherry Grove Haverfordwest and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs Pembroke Dock per annum. [216619]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) Workforce Change programme is designed to modernise HMRC's operations by restructuring its workforce and accommodation in line with future business needs.

The gross accommodation cost savings from full vacation of the HMRC offices at Cherry Grove, Haverfordwest and Custom House, Pembroke Dock are estimated to be up to £340,000 per annum. There would be some short-term offsetting costs but, more importantly, greater ongoing business efficiency savings arising from the wider restructuring of which these proposals are a part.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government officials and *(b)* officials of other Departments officials on the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices at (i) Cherry Grove Haverfordwest and (ii) Pembroke Dock. [216624]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs through its Workforce Change teams has regular meetings with Welsh Assembly officials and proactively engages with other Government Departments about staffing issues across the whole of Wales.

Smuggling: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of fuel smuggling-related detections in Northern Ireland made in each of the last three years were made by *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs; [214983]

(2) what percentage of fuel smuggling-related detections in England and Wales in each of the last three years were made by HM Revenue and Customs. [214943]

Angela Eagle: The numbers of fuel related detections by HMRC in the last three years are as follows:

Detections	*Northern Ireland*	*England and Wales*	*Total*
2007-08	1,158	2,759	3,917
2006-07	1,190	2,683	3,873
2005-06	932	2,536	3,468

HMRC do not centrally record fuel smuggling detections made by other agencies and therefore cannot estimate the percentages requested.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vehicles were seized by the authorities in Northern Ireland as a result of being used for smuggling cross border fuel in each of the last three years; what the total amount of fuel seized from these vehicles was; how many arrests were made in such seizures; and how many convictions were secured as a result of these arrests. [215028]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

As at 31 March each year	*Vehicles detected smuggling fuel into Northern Ireland*	*Fuel smuggled into Northern Ireland and seized (litres)*
2005	108	301,020
2006	67	297,260
2007	37	240,600
2008	53	247,303

Tax Allowances: Taxis

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will adjust the tax free mileage allowance for taxis and minicabs in line with changes in fuel prices. [216835]

Angela Eagle: Tax free mileage allowances are available to employees who use their own motor vehicles for business journeys and are reimbursed by their employer for doing so. They do not affect drivers of taxis and minicabs who are in most cases self-employed.

Taxation: Fuels

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Exchequer received from *(a)* fuel duty and *(b)* value added tax on fuel in the last 12 months. [214613]

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what level of duty was applied to the highest-selling variants of *(a)* unleaded petrol and *(b)* diesel in each year since 1997; [214560]

(2) what proportion of the pump price of the highest-selling variants of *(a)* unleaded petrol and *(b)* diesel accrued to HM Treasury in (i) duty, (ii) VAT and (iii) both taxes combined was in each year since 1997. [214561]

Angela Eagle: I refer the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire and the hon. Member for Angus to the answer I gave the hon. Member for East Londonderry (Mr. Campbell) on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 912W. The latest release of the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin details receipts to April this year. Table 4.1.2 of the latest release of Quarterly Energy Prices published by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform contains retail petroleum product price data—this can be viewed at www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Taxation: Oil

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue from oil movements was paid to HM Revenue and Customs by *(a)* Chevron Pembroke Refinery, *(b)* Murco/Total Fina EG Refinery, Milford Haven and *(c)* Sem Logistics Petro Plus/Milford Haven in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2005-06. [216625]

Angela Eagle: Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 does not permit HM Revenue and Customs to disclose information relating to the tax affairs of individual taxpayers.

Historic and monthly excise duty receipts from total quantities of oil released for consumption can be found in table 3 of the HM Revenue and Customs Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Taxation: Rebates

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid in tax rebates in each year since 1979. [216205]

Jane Kennedy: Information on income tax credits and repayments, other than those made through the self assessment system, is published in Table 2.9 on the HMRC website. A link to the most recent publication (covering the years 1996-97 to 2007-08) is as follows:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/t_receipt/table2-9.pdf

Information for earlier years is not available in the same detail but the corresponding totals were:

	£ million
1979-80	5,596
1980-81	7,290
1981-82	7,515
1982-83	7,962
1983-84	6,969
1984-85	8,201
1985-86	9,751
1986-87	9,824
1987-88	10,488
1988-89	11,167
1989-90	13,773
1990-91	16,104
1991-92	16,478
1992-93	17,233
1993-94	15,552
1994-95	15,264
1995-96	15,170

Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 829W, on Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services, where and when each meeting was held; and what the official title or group name given to each of the meetings was. [211829]

Jane Kennedy: Meetings were held in London on 21 June and 29 November 2007; in Belfast on 3 April, 8 May and 18 October 2007, and on 18 February and 4 April 2008; and in Dublin on 6 November 2007. The title "Steering Committee on Harmonisation" has commonly been used for these liaison meetings.

VAT: Lighting

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W, on VAT: housing, what progress has been made on plans for lowering the rate of VAT on energy efficient light bulbs at the EU level. [216423]

Jane Kennedy: The availability of VAT reduced rates is governed by the European VAT agreements, signed by successive Governments. The Government are currently making the case at EU level for wider application of reduced VAT rates to energy-saving and energy efficient products. In March 2008 the European Council invited the Commission to examine areas where economic instruments, including VAT rates, can have a role to play to increase the use of energy-efficient goods and energy-saving materials. This work is currently under way and we expect it to be discussed by member states later in the year. Decisions on the scope of any new reduced VAT rate would be a matter for unanimous agreement of all member states.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was received on average in *(a)* working tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits by claimant families with a child (i) claiming and (ii) not claiming disability living allowance in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [216548]

(2) how many and what proportion of families with a child claiming disability living allowance are claiming *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [216966]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Armed Forces

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many military service personnel are in receipt of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit, broken down by service; and if he will make a statement. [216052]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of child and working tax credit claimants broken down by occupation is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: EU Nationals

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for *(a)* working tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits were made by citizens of other EU member states resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in the last financial year; and if he will make a statement. [216882]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210538]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury and its agencies provide Welsh language versions of its publications on request as part of their own Welsh Language Scheme. Welsh language versions of literature are provided under the Welsh Language Act 1993.

Detailed records on the level of demand for publications issued by HM Treasury, NS&I, OGC Buying Solutions, VOA and the Royal Mint do not exist, but key reports are translated and printed in Welsh including:

HM Treasury pre-Budget and Budget main and Welsh regional leaflets, Euro preparations leaflet;

OGC resourcing publication; and

NS&I product brochures for the 1,041 Welsh post offices—10 different versions, 9,000 copies each.

HM Revenue and Customs monitors the level of demand for Welsh Language Services through statistical information collected by its Welsh contact and service centre. In the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, the Department received approximately:

	Number
Telephone Calls	20,026
Inquiry Centre Visits	1,111
Self Assessment returns	2,462
Letters and forms	24,367

In March 2008, HMRC renewed its commitment to provide a Welsh Language Service when it agreed a four-year Welsh Language Scheme with the Welsh Language Board. This undertaking outlines the Department's commitment to approximately 10,000 Welsh language customers who have contacted it asking for a Welsh Language Service.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 203260, tabled on 28 April 2008, on the Council of Ministers; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer. [216944]

Kitty Ussher: I have done so.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of accident and emergency admissions which took place in the week commencing *(a)* 24 March and *(b)* 31 March 2008. [214448]

Mr. Bradshaw: The primary source of information on accident and emergency (A&E) activity is the quarterly monitoring accident and emergency dataset, which collects and publishes information, including on emergency admissions via type 1 A&E departments in England, on a quarterly basis. The most recently-published data shows that there were 771,217 emergency admissions via type 1 A&E departments in England for the period January to March (quarter four) 2007-08.

Limited information on emergency admissions via type 1 A&E departments is collected from national health service trusts as weekly, unvalidated data for performance management purposes.

Information is available on attendances at A&E departments but this is collected separately.

Baby Care Units: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many level 3 intensive care cots were available for neo-natal care in each of the acute trusts in the east of England strategic health authority area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [211251]

Ann Keen: The average daily number of available beds in neonatal intensive care wards (also known as level 3 wards) for national health service acute providers in the east of England strategic health authority area can be found in the following table. There have been concerns raised recently about the definitions used for neonatal intensive care cots in the KH03 return. The concerns have been around the definition using the ward type of where the cot is located as part of the definition. This has caused confusion among some trusts of where to record their neonatal intensive care cots and has caused inconsistency in reporting. These concerns will be investigated with the view of ensuring a robust and clear definition is developed for the 2008-09 collection.

We understand that the SHA is currently consulting on the proposals set out in its clinical vision document, "Towards the best, together", including proposals for the future of maternity services in the region. The public consultation will continue to 4 August 2008, and we encourage the hon. Member to engage with this process.

Average daily number of available beds in wards, ward classification 'Intensive care: Neonates', acute NHS providers in East of England SHA area

Organisation name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32	31	18	13	13	13	13
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	18	18	18
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	17	23	37	37	37	37	36
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	3	3	7	3	3	3	3
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5	5	5	5	6	8	8
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	22	22	22	22	22	22	25
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	15	4	16	16	19	18	19
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	10	10	8	9	12	12	12
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	6	4	4
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

Notes:

1. Intensive care: patients requiring advanced respiratory support alone or basic respiratory support together with support of at least two organ systems. This level (level 3) includes all complex patients requiring support for multi-organ failure.

2. James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are not included in the table because they do not provide neonatal intensive care beds.

Source:

Department of Health KH03 return.

Care Homes: Elderly

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) private, (*b*) public and (*c*) voluntary sector care homes for the elderly in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex were inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [214046]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that care homes are not registered as being either for older people or younger adults. The distinction is drawn from the set of national minimum standards (NMS) against which they are inspected. This is decided by the inspector at the time of the inspection and is based on the current age profile of the residents of the home.

The following table shows the numbers of care homes which were active on the 31 March in the years shown and which had been inspected up until that date against the NMS for care homes for older people. It is therefore not a full count of all care homes.

Care homes in Essex and Southend on Sea inspected against the NMS for care homes for older people

			Ownership type			
	Area	*Local authority*	*Other*	*Private*	*Voluntary*	*Grand total*
2003	Essex			175	12	187
	Southend on Sea			56	10	66
2003 total				231	22	253

Care homes in Essex and Southend on Sea inspected against the NMS for care homes for older people

		Ownership type				
	Area	*Local authority*	*Other*	*Private*	*Voluntary*	*Grand total*
2004	Essex	9		195	13	217
	Southend on Sea	1	1	57	12	71
2004 total		10	1	252	25	288
2005	Essex	4		204	12	220
	Southend on Sea	2	1	54	12	69
2005 total		6	1	258	24	289
2006	Essex	2		210	14	226
	Southend on Sea	2	1	55	12	70
2006 total		4	1	265	26	296
2007	Essex		1	218	14	233
	Southend on Sea	2	1	53	12	68
2007 total		2	2	271	26	301
Grand total		22	5	1,277	123	1,427

[1] The National care Standards Commission (NCSC), which preceded CSCI, began work on 1 April 2002. During the first months of NCSC's existence, there was a delay in registering some local authority care homes, so complete information is not available for 2002-03.

Source:
NCSC/CSCI registration and inspection database

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the responses to the consultation on changes to the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide. [212200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will undertake public consultation in 2008 on the recommendations of a group of key stakeholders on changes to the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide (CRAG). These consultations will be in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, allowing 12 weeks for comments to be submitted. Any changes agreed by Ministers will be implemented at an appropriate date after the end of the consultation.

From 2007, the Department has not consulted on the uprating of items in the regulations and the CRAG, such as the capital limits and personal expenses allowance, where any such changes are simply being uprated using the formula applied in previous years. However, consultation will take place if there are other proposed changes.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary sector homes for the elderly in (i) Tamworth constituency and (ii) Staffordshire were inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [215811]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that care homes are not registered as, for example, care homes for older people. CSCI inspectors will decide at the time of an inspection whether to inspect a home against the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people or younger adults. This decision is based on the age profile of the residents of the home.

The following table shows the number of homes which were active in Staffordshire council with social services responsibilities (CSSR) area on 31 March at the end of each financial year shown, that had been inspected at some point prior against the NMS for older people (though not necessarily during the year in question).

CSCI is unable to provide separate data for Tamworth, which is not a CSSR. The lowest level at which CSCI is able to report is that of a CSSR, of which there are 150 in England.

	Ownership type					
	Local authority	*NHS*	*Other*	*Private*	*Voluntary*	*Total*
2002-03[1]	[2]		4	161	5	170
2003-04[1]	24	—	4	162	2	192
2004-05	23	—	4	157	3	187
2005-06	23	—	1	163	2	189
2006-07	21		2	156	5	184

[1] Data collected by the National Care Standards Commission.
[2] Complete data not available.

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women in Tamworth constituency have received cervical smear tests within the recommended period of time in the last 12 months. [215761]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. The following table shows the requested information for South Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT).

Cervical Screening Programme: coverage[1] of the target age group (25-64) for South Staffordshire PCT, as at 31 March 2007

Percentage

		Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test)	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test)*
	England	69.4	79.2
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	76.6	82.4

[1] Coverage is defined as the percentage of women in a population eligible for screening at a given point in time (31 March 2007) who were less than the specified period since their last test producing an adequate test result.

Note:

National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Children: Diabetes

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to reduce the number of emergency hospital admissions of children with diabetes. [214794]

Ann Keen: In April 2007, the Department published Making every Young Person with Diabetes Matter, the report of the Children and Young People with Diabetes working group, copies of this report have been placed in the Library. The report looked at ways to improve diabetes services for children and young people, including better commissioning and workforce planning, to improve care and thereby reduce the incidence of emergency hospital admissions. The report's recommendations are being taken forward by an implementation group led by Dr. Sheila Shribman, National Clinical Director for Children, and including representatives from Diabetes UK, the royal colleges, the Healthcare Commission and other partner organisations committed to facilitating the implementation of best practice nationally.

Clinical Spine Application

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS service providers have implemented the Clinical Spine Application. [215015]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following national health service organisations and other organisations that provide NHS services have recorded themselves as having completed the final implementation milestone 'Implementation Complete' in respect of the clinical spine application (CSA) phase 1 of the NHS Strategic Tracing Service Closure Project.

Brent Primary Care Trust (PCT);
Solihull Care Trust;
South Birmingham PCT;
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT;
Barnsley PCT;
Bassetlaw PCT;
Birmingham East and North PCT;
Blackburn with Darwen PCT;
Bolton PCT;
Bradford and Airedale PCT;
Buckinghamshire PCT;
City and Hackney PCT;
County Durham PCT;
Darlington PCT;
Devon PCT;
Dudley PCT;
Ealing PCT;
East Lancashire PCT;
Halton and St. Helens PCT;
Hartlepool PCT;
Herefordshire PCT;
Kensington and Chelsea PCT;
Kirklees PCT;
Knowsley PCT;
Leeds PCT;
Lincolnshire PCT;
Liverpool PCT;
Middlesbrough PCT;
Milton Keynes PCT;
North East Essex PCT;
North Lincolnshire PCT;
North Tees PCT;
North Yorkshire and York PCT;
Northamptonshire PCT;
Nottingham City PCT;
Nottinghamshire County PCT;
Peterborough PCT;
Redcar and Cleveland PCT;
Richmond and Twickenham PCT;
Rotherham PCT;
Salford PCT;
Sandwell PCT;
Sefton PCT;
Somerset PCT;
South Staffordshire PCT;
Stoke on Trent PCT;
Tameside and Glossop PCT;
Tower Hamlets PCT;
Walsall PCT;
Wolverhampton City PCT;
Worcestershire PCT;
Hull Teaching PCT;
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT;
Hertfordshire Health Informatics Service;
Nottingham Health Informatics Service;
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust;

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust;
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust;
Barts and the London NHS Trust;
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust;
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust;
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust;
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust;
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust;
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust;
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust;
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust;
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust;
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust;
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust;
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust;
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust;
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
George Eliot Hospital NHS;
Trust Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust;
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust;
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust;
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust;
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust;
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust;
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust;
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust;
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust;
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust;
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust;
Medway NHS Trust;
Mersey Care NHS Trust;
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust;
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust;
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust;
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust;
Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust;
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust;
Pennine Care NHS Trust;
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust;
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust;
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust;
Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust;
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust;
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust;
Scarborough and N.E. Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust;
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust;
Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust;
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust;
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust;
South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust;
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust;
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust;
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust;
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust;
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust;
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust;
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust;
The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust;
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust;
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust;
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust;
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust;
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust;
Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust;
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust;
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust;
Weston Area Health NHS Trust;
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust;
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust;
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust;
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust;
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Oxford Cancer Intelligence Unit;
Hampshire and Isle of Wight PPSA;
Thames Valley Primary Care Agency;
South West Public Health Observatory;
South West Cancer Intelligence Service;
Gloucestershire Family Health Service;
Devon Patient and Practitioner Services Agency;
Kent Primary Care Agency;
Devon Social Services Directorate;
Wigan Social Services Directorate;
Nuffield Hospitals; and
Oldham Social Services Directorate.

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average period of employment for a Commission for Social Care Inspection inspector was in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* the most recent period available in 2008; [214044]

(2) how many *(a)* inspectors and *(b)* full-time equivalent inspectors were employed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each year since 2004, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. [214045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the average period of employment for CSCI inspectors for the years requested are shown in the following table.

	Average service in years[1]
2005	2.51
2006	3.32
2007	4.33
2008	5.33

[1] The average length of service with CSCI or its predecessor the National Care Standards Commission.

The number of inspectors and full-time equivalent inspectors employed by CSCI in each year since 2004, broken down by age and sex are shown in the following tables.

	Data	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60>*	*Grand total*
2005	Full-time equivalent (FTE)	13.2	233.8	521.4	421.3	51.1	1,240.9
	Headcount	14	248	553	447	56	1318
2006	FTE	10.6	174.7	515.2	425.6	62.0	1,188.2
	Headcount	11	187	546	444	67	1,255
2007	FTE	6.0	104.3	378.4	354.9	77.5	921.0
	Headcount	6	111	402	371	81	971
2008	FTE	3.0	80.0	315.6	319.2	68.8	786.5
	Headcount	3	85	335	333	73	829

	Data	*Female*	*Male*	*Grand total*
2005	FTE	896.2	344.7	1,240.9
	Headcount	964	354	1318
2006	FTE	863.4	324.9	1,188.2
	Headcount	922	333	1,255
2007	FTE	688.5	232.5	921.0
	Headcount	733	238	971
2008	FTE	599.4	187.1	786.5
	Headcount	637	192	829

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing complement, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) grade of the Commission for Social Care Inspection was in each year since 2002. [214062]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) was established on 1 April 2004. CSCI revenue budgets, staffing complement, broken down by sex, age and grade since 2004, are shown in the following tables.

	Revenue budget (£)
2004-05	157,163,000
2005-06	158,560,000
2006-07	[1]160,586,000
2007-08	[2]150,407,000
2008-09	[3]125,290,000

[1] Includes £2,500,000 transitions

[2] Includes £19,402,000 transitions

[3] Includes £25,290,000 transitions

Note:

Revenue budget figures include capital charges which are notional charges for depreciation and cost of capital. The figures also include transitions costs which are non-recurring restructuring costs.

CSCI staff in post

	Staff whole time equivalent
2004-05	2,622
2005-06	2,634
2006-07	2,499
2007-08	2,075
2008-09	1,743

CSCI staff (full-time equivalent) broken down by gender

Month	*Female*	*Male*	*Grand total*
2004	1,847.64	644.61	2,492.25
2005	1,706.95	619.34	2,326.29
2006	1,716.55	637.40	2,353.95
2007	1,385.24	492.55	1,877.78
2008	1,164.31	426.77	1,591.07

Note:

Due to rounding figures may not sum up.

CSCI staff (full-time equivalent) broken down by age

Month	*<20*	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60>*	*Grand total*
2004	6.89	220.17	490.20	904.08	792.00	78.90	2,492.25
2005	3.00	175.98	430.69	859.26	769.73	87.63	2,326.29
2006	4.81	194.21	394.53	847.53	814.54	98.34	2,353.95
2007	1.00	151.82	300.70	643.37	668.35	112.54	1,877.78
2008	1.00	114.02	247.96	538.71	584.05	105.33	1,591.07

Note:

Due to rounding figures may not sum up.

CSCI staff (full-time equivalent) broken down by grade[1]

	Grade								
Month	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H+*	*Grand total*[2]
2004	290.51	279.03	119.94	1,383.34	232.14	163.37	8.00	15.92	2,492.25
2005	242.94	231.82	111.25	1,321.90	235.60	143.85	10.00	28.92	2,326.29
2006	248.23	224.22	114.82	1,286.63	273.76	158.96	15.00	32.32	2,353.95
2007	192.64	193.29	106.39	1,001.82	228.20	115.27	12.00	28.17	1,877.78
2008	133.11	152.23	72.07	869.44	217.40	110.56	9.00	27.27	1,591.07

[1] Grade A to C include positions such as administrative assistants, grade D and above are inspectors and H+ include senior managers.
[2] Due to rounding figures may not sum up.

Dementia: Chester

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers for people with dementia there are in *(a)* the City of Chester constituency and *(b)* Western Cheshire primary care trust. [215337]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Dental Services: Manpower

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental students qualified as dentists in each of the last two years; and how many vocational training posts were available for the first post-qualification year of approved training in each of those years. [215504]

Ann Keen: Information for England is shown as follows:

	Number of home and European Union dental graduates	*Number of vocational training places*
2006	560	624
2007	593	624

In addition to home and European dental graduates, some overseas dentists with leave to remain in the United Kingdom apply for vocational training places.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expert groups his Department has set up in each year since 1999. [213266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 are available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library.

Since 2007, the Department has published details of its own public bodies on the Appointment Commission's website at:

www.appointments.org.uk/docs/public_bodies_2007.pdf.

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 237-8W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215246]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214550]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular workforce depends on pay-setting arrangements for that workforce.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213129]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the Department, all unspent criminal record information is requested and subsequently provided through self-declaration by individuals. We are aware of the need to verify these records independently with Disclosure Scotland, and their Basic Disclosure service. However, we are in the early stages of recognising this as a mandatory requirement and are taking action to implement security checking for all new entrants. We are also reviewing how we manage risk appropriately in circumstances where appointment without Basic Disclosure is considered, for example, where an appointment is a very short-term one.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213149]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is compliant with the baseline security standard for all incoming permanent staff and inward secondees. While we are unable to provide the specific information requested, we have recently strengthened our recruitment processes by co-ordinating baseline checks through a single team, thereby ensuring consistent application of the standard. Previously, this was carried out across a number of teams and no central checking register was kept.

The Department ensures that all new permanent staff are entitled to work in the United Kingdom and that they meet nationality rules for Government service. We also carry out appropriate employment history reference checks to provide assurance of an individual's character. Their recent past provides the Department with a view on whether they are likely to bring discredit on the Department and suggests the likelihood of discreditable service in the future.

All unspent criminal record information is requested and subsequently provided through self-declaration by individuals. We are aware of the need to verify these records independently with Disclosure Scotland, and their Basic Disclosure service. However, we are in the early stages of recognising this as a mandatory requirement and are taking action to implement security checking for all new entrants. We are also reviewing how we manage risk appropriately in circumstances where appointment without Basic Disclosure is considered, for example where an appointment is a very short-term one.

Doctors: Housing

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 55-6W, on doctors: housing, if he will make it his policy to collect centrally assessments of the adequacy of junior doctors' accommodation. [216570]

Ann Keen: There are minimum standards for junior doctors' accommodation which trusts are required to meet. This forms part of the terms and conditions of service of hospital medical and dental staff and doctors in public health medicine and the community health service in England and Wales. Responsibility for meeting these standards rests with employers and we do not intend to monitor this centrally.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215523]

Mr. Bradshaw: The "Third Outline NHS Euro Changeover Plan" was updated on 14 January 2005. This outline plan covers the Department, its agencies and arm's length bodies.

Copies of the plan have been placed in the Library.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection to care homes on the prevention of elder abuse; what recent representations he has received about elder abuse; and if he will make a statement. [214063]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All care homes are subject, under the Care Standards Act 2000, to the Care Homes Regulations 2001. All providers of regulated social care services, including care homes, must be registered with and inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

When inspecting care providers to assess compliance with the regulations, CSCI must have regard for the relevant national minimum standards (NMS). Compliance with the NMS is not itself enforceable, but compliance with regulations is enforceable subject to the NMS being taken into account. Copies of the regulations and NMS are available in the Library.

Regulation 13(6) requires that arrangements shall be made, "by training staff or by other measures, to prevent service users being harmed or suffering abuse or being placed at risk of harm or abuse".

Standard 18 of the NMS for Care Homes for Older People refers specifically to the protection of service users from abuse. The NMS also refer the reader to further guidance on the prevention of abuse, issued by Action on Elder Abuse, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Department of Health and the Home Office and the Royal College of Nursing.

CSCI has issued a range of guidance relating to the safeguarding of adults, which is available on the CSCI professional website, including:

Safeguarding Adults and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA): Including an agreed protocol with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Directors of Adult Services, which sets out how CSCI works with other agencies to make sure people who use care services are safeguarded from abuse. Available at:

www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=7344&key=;

The Management of Controlled Drugs in Care Homes. Available at:

www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=7314&key=; and

The report, Better Safe than Sorry—advice for providers about the use of key procedures to safeguard adults in care homes. Available at:

www.csci.org.uk/default.aspx?page=1790&key=.

In addition to issuing its own guidance, CSCI also draws attention to guidance issued by other organisations on safeguarding.

It is part of the role of CSCI's provider relationship managers (PRMs) to obtain information on corporate providers' regarding safeguarding issues, in order to ascertain if there are any trends in the homes operated by those providers. These trends would be identified in CSCI's annual report and PRMs would also meet with providers in order to raise such issues.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to spearhead primary care trusts on the reduction of health inequalities for people with epilepsy; [215907]

(2) what improvements to the care and support of pregnant women with epilepsy have been introduced since the Action Plan for Epilepsy of 2003. [215909]

Ann Keen: The "National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions" is the key tool for delivering the Government's strategy to support people, and reduce health inequalities, for those living with long-term neurological conditions, including epilepsy. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

In October 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a clinical guideline covering the diagnosis, treatment and management of epilepsies in adults and children. This clinical guideline specifically covers the treatment and management of epilepsy in pregnancy.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review the level of counselling and support provided by the NHS to women with epilepsy during pregnancy; [216361]

(2) what plans he has to improve the services for people with epilepsy provided by the NHS in the next three years. [216362]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of local health commissioners to provide services to meet the needs of their local population living with epilepsy. Local health bodies are expected to work towards the implementation of the national service framework for long-term conditions (copies of which have already been placed in the Library), and health professionals are expected to implement the guidance on the treatment and management of epilepsy issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Departmental officials have recently met with representatives of the Joint Epilepsy Council and Epilepsy Bereaved to discuss issues of concern to those with epilepsy.

We have no plans to review the level of counselling and support provided to women with epilepsy in pregnancy.

General Practitioners

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each constituency in each year since 1997-98. [213675]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect centrally the number of closures of general practitioner surgeries. This data is held locally by primary care trusts.

However, we do collect data on number of GP practices and practitioners, at a given date for each year. This is set out in the following table.

Number of GP practices in England, as at 1997 to 2007

	Total GP practices	*Total number of GPs*[1]
1997	9,102	28,046
1998	9,090	28,251
1999	9,034	28,467
2000	8,965	28,593
2001	8,910	28,802
2002	8,833	29,202
2003	8,833	30,358
2004	8,542	31,523
2005	8,451	32,738
2006	8,325	33,091
2007	8,261	33,364

[1] Excluding GP registrars and GP retainers.

Note:

Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-07.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and Social Care, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the results were of the most recent patient survey on access for GP practices in *(a)* Selly Oak constituency, *(b)* South Birmingham primary care trust, *(c)* other primary care trusts in Birmingham, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* the West Midlands and *(f)* England. [214445]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information centre for health and social care has pre-announced publication of the results of the 2008 "GP Patient Access Survey" for 16 July 2008.

The 2007 GP "Patient Survey Access" results have been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is planned to be spent from the public purse in Chorley on the extension of GP opening hours. [214791]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. In order to extend general practitioner opening hours £158 million has been provided nationally. The development and location of services are a matter for the national health service locally, based on need and working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time general practitioners are registered to work in Bournemouth. [212457]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is available at primary care trust (PCT) level for numbers of general practitioners (GPs) by headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE).

The latest available information for GPs is for 2007. Information for Bournemouth and Poole teaching PCT area is shown in the following table.

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) in Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT, 30 September 2007

	Numbers (headcount) and full time equivalents *Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT*
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) headcount	228
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) FTE	211

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

General Practitioners: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the GP to patient ratio within Milton Keynes primary care trust was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [214931]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following table.

The table shows the number of patients per general practitioner (GP) in the Milton Keynes primary care trust (PCT) area, as at 30 September 2007. These are the latest figures available.

Numbers of patients per GP as at 30 September 2007

Organisation	*All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*	*Registered patients*	*Patients per GP*
Milton Keynes PCT	145	245,966	1,696

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics.

General Practitioners: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the GP to patient ratio within the South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215848]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Numbers of patients per practitioner by selected primary care trust (PCT) in England, as at 30 September 2007

	All practitioners (excluding registrars and retainers)	*Registered patients*	*Patients per practitioner*
England	33,364	53,588,174	1,606
5PK South Staffordshire PCT	349	603,057	1,728

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Health Professions: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) health visitors, (*b*) nursery nurses, (*c*) support workers and (*d*) midwives there were in Hertfordshire in the most recent year for which figures are available. [215786]

Ann Keen: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff (headcount) in Hertfordshire by national health service organisation and by staff group as at 30 September 2007

	Total of specified organisations	*East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust*	*West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust*	*East and North Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT)*	*West Hertfordshire PCT*	*Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust*
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[1]	5,537	1,971	1,370	548	642	1,006
of which:						
Registered midwife	400	224	176	0	0	0
Health visitor	237	9	0	103	125	0
Support to doctors and nursing staff[2]	3,811	988	867	311	510	1,135
of which:						
Nursery nurse	56	1	2	43	10	0
Nursing assistant/auxiliary	2,035	654	138	188	193	862
Support worker	52	0	0	36	7	9

[1] Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff includes: nurse consultant; modern matron; community matron; nurse manager; registered nurse (children); registered midwife; health visitor; district nurse; school nurse; and other first and second level registration nurses (excluding those in the previous categories). Excluding general practitioner practice nurses.

[2] Support to doctors and nursing staff includes: nursery nurses; nursing assistant/auxiliary; nurse learner; healthcare assistant; support worker; clerical and admin; and estates (maintenance and works).

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Health Services: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the operation of payment by results following the conclusion of the consultation on modifications to the existing system in the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [214800]

Mr. Bradshaw: No assessment has been made of the operation of Payment by Results in the East of England following the conclusion of the Options for the future of Payment by Results consultation exercise.

The summary of responses to the consultation exercise, published in January 2008, signalled the priority work areas for the development of payment by results, informed by the responses received to the consultation.

This document has already been placed in the Library, and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_082424

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the effectiveness of payment by results in the acute sector in the east of England: and if he will make a statement. [214801]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific assessment has been made of the effectiveness of payment by results in the acute sector in the east of England.

However, the Department does sponsor independent research into the national implementation and effectiveness of payment by results. The latest study, the National Evaluation of Payment by Results, has been completed by the health economics research unit of the university of Aberdeen.

Copies of this report have been placed in the Library, and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/NHSFinancialReforms/DH_4138133

Health Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were *(a)* made to and *(b)* upheld by (i) by complaint structures at local level and (ii) the Health Service Commissioner arising from services provided by hospitals in South Staffordshire NHS Primary Care Trust area in each of the last five years. [215847]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. The following table sets out the number of complaints received by national health service organisations in south Staffordshire for the last five years for which figures are available.

Written complaints about hospital and community services by specified organisations within the south Staffordshire area

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England	91,023	90,122	90,413	95,047	90,801
of which:					
West midlands	9,503	9,714	9,227	9,804	8,937
of which:					
South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	137	97	104	138	108
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	399	517	350	588	706
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	496	489	400	447	339

[1] South Staffordshire PCT came into existence on 1 October 2006. It is made up of a merger of the following PCTs: Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT; Cannock Chase PCT; East Staffordshire PCT; and South Western Staffordshire PCT.

Note:

Data as at 1 April to 31 March each year.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Health: Summertime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on children's health of a change to British summer time in winter and double British summer time in summer. [214797]

Ann Keen: We have made no such assessment.

Heart Attacks

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of heart attack victims had access to rehabilitation centres in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [215074]

(2) how much funding was provided for rehabilitation centres for heart attack victims in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the projected amounts are for the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [215075]

(3) how much of the funding for rehabilitation centres for heart attack victims was ring-fenced in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [215076]

(4) what percentage of people who had had a heart attack attended rehabilitation in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [215077]

Ann Keen: Chapter Seven of the "Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework", published in March 2000, set out standards for the national health service about the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline 48, "MI: secondary prevention" was revised and issued in May 2007, copies of both publications have been placed in the Library. This provided updated guidance to the NHS on secondary prevention in primary and secondary care for patients following heart attack and emphasised the importance of rehabilitation for these patients.

Implementation of guidance is a matter for the local NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. The Department allocates funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations, and it is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding to commission and provide services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

The Department does not collect information centrally about specific funding for, or numbers of eligible patients to whom cardiac rehabilitation services are offered. However, a new National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation, funded by the British Heart Foundation has been established which covers the numbers of programmes and uptakes of services. This will provide stronger evidence on the quality and effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation services and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their service provision. Further details are on the website at:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk.

Hospitals: Attendance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust has been in each of the last five years of patients missing *(a)* first appointments and *(b)* follow-up appointments. [213976]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Closures

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which decisions on hospitals scheduled for closure were referred to him in each of the last five years; and how many decisions were not upheld. [213944]

Ann Keen: No decisions on hospitals scheduled for closure have been formally referred to the Secretary of State in the last five years.

Hospitals: Infections

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that the Health Act 2006: "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" is implemented effectively. [214963]

Ann Keen: The "Health Act 2006: Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" came into force on 1 October 2006 and compliance is assessed by the Healthcare Commission (HCC).

The HCC has the power to issue an "improvement notice" to a national health service body that is not compliant with the code. In addition to self-declarations on compliance with the code, the HCC make unannounced visits to assess NHS bodies. During 2007-08 the HCC carried out 120 unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with the code, with a focus on acute trusts, and issued three "improvement notices". All three trusts subsequently demonstrated that they had improved and were compliant with the code. To further strengthen this process, from April 2008, specialist teams from the HCC are carrying out annual infection control inspections of all acute trusts against the code. This inspection programme is under way and, to date, the HCC has issued one "improvement notice" as part of this programme.

Hospitals: Land

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he issues on the involvement of interested parties in decisions on the disposal of land formerly occupied by hospitals; [213828]

(2) what guidance he issues on *(a)* hospital site transfers and *(b)* the (i) use and (ii) disposal of land formerly occupied by hospitals. [213837]

Mr. Bradshaw: Guidance for national health service organisations on all land and property transactions, including hospital site transfers and the disposal of surplus land or buildings, is given in the Department's publication, "Health Building Note 00-08: Estatecode". Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Under this guidance, where property has been identified as surplus to a particular NHS organisation, such property should be offered to other local trusts to determine whether the asset could be re-used by them for the provision of health care services, Government Departments and the local authority. This policy accords with the Government's requirement to make better use of surplus public sector land.

Hospitals: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve the performance of hospitals since 2000. [211051]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 June 2008]:* Since 2000, the Government have invested significant resources in the national health service so that hospitals are now providing a much higher quality of care, in better facilities, with more staff and better outcomes for patients. As a result, waiting times have reduced significantly, survival rates for cancer and heart disease have greatly improved and the majority of patients tell us they are satisfied with the level of care they receive.

To build on these successes, the Department published "Developing the NHS Performance Regime" in June 2008, which set out the 'vision' for developing a performance regime to support NHS organisations to succeed and to identify and address under performance where it occurs.

We continue to work with the NHS across strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to determine local and national priorities to drive better performance in the areas that matter most to patients. National and local priority areas are set through NHS operating frameworks, which the Department reports on quarterly.

Lung Cancer

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from the UK Lung Cancer Coalition in the last 12 months; what response has been made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [216403]

Ann Keen: The Department receives a number of representations from stakeholder groups about cancer policy. The UK Lung Cancer Coalition forwarded a copy of its report, 'Improving lung cancer survival in the UK', to the Department on 1 November, the contents of which we read with interest. On 6 December 2008, I acknowledged the excellent work of the UK Lung Cancer Coalition and thanked them for their contribution.

Lung Cancer: Screening

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing a lung cancer screening pilot; and what timetable he has set for the introduction of such a pilot. [216405]

Ann Keen: The Department is leading work on behalf of the National Cancer Research Institute to commission research on the feasibility of a United Kingdom trial of computerised tomography screening for lung cancer. The National Institute for Health Research Technology Assessment programme issued a commissioning brief, taking full account, of the trials already underway in the United States and Europe, with a view to funding feasibility studies as soon as possible. To date, two applications were received and one applicant has been invited to develop a feasibility study. If there is progression to an exploratory trial and then a full randomised controlled trial, these will take a number of years to complete depending on the success of the research at each stage.

Medical Examinations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether arrangements exist for patients to have annual medical check-ups in the NHS in *(a)* Shropshire and *(b)* other parts of England. [210356]

Mr. Bradshaw: The General Medical Services contract requires general practitioner practices to:

invite all newly registered patients for a consultation within six months of registration;

provide, on request, a consultation to all patients aged 75 or over who have not had a consultation within the last 12 months; and

provide, on request, a consultation for patients aged 16-74 who have not had a consultation within the last three years.

There are no arrangements particular to Shropshire.

Neurology: Palliative Care

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he plans to monitor progress towards implementation in 2015 of the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions; [215908]

(2) if he will provide guidance to local NHS organisations to ensure implementation of the 11 quality requirements within the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions. [215910]

Ann Keen: Progress on implementation of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) will be measured in a number of ways, including:

research studies commissioned as part of a national research initiative to underpin implementation of the NSF, to provide baseline data needed to measure the subsequent impact of the NSF;

work to develop a national minimum dataset for long-term neurological conditions; and

implementation of clinical indicators developed as part of the Better Metrics Programme.

We have no plans to issue guidance to ensure implementation of the NSF. Since publication of the NSF, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activity to help local authority social care organisations and national health service bodies take forward implementation of the NSF. This includes:

working with key NHS, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;

ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and

work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

NHS

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department has put in place to enable patients to provide feedback on their experience of local NHS services. [214206]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to engaging patients and the public in the design and delivery of their local health services by making services more responsive and by giving people more opportunities to comment on and influence the care they receive.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, contained important measures designed to strengthen the patient and public involvement system in England, including the introduction of local involvement networks (LINks) and the updated duty on National Health Service bodies to involve users of health services.

LINks, together with the new duty on NHS bodies to involve, and to report on consultations, will play a vital role in encouraging and enabling a greater range of people to influence the commissioning and provision of health care bringing meaningful engagement to the whole system, from commissioning to front-line care.

The Department is also in the process of reviewing the NHS complaints system to create a single, more simple system covering all NHS and adult social care services. The new approach will mean that the experience of making a complaint is easier and will ensure that lessons are routinely learned from complaints, feeding into service improvement.

The national patient survey programme collects feedback on the quality of service delivery from the point of view of patients and service users. Since its inception, over 20 surveys have been conducted across seven different settings, and well over 1 million patients have taken part. Surveys are conducted by the Healthcare Commission.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* private providers and *(b)* NHS providers to the NHS are entitled to an uplift in fees in line with (i) inflation and (ii) public sector pay increases. [212208]

Mr. Bradshaw: Neither private providers nor national health service providers are entitled to an automatic uplift in fees in line with inflation or public sector pay increases.

In the case of clinical services, the prices service providers receive through their contracts are set through negotiation and agreement with the service commissioner, taking into account the actual costs of providing those services. This applies to both NHS bodies and private providers. Any clinical services provided under the rules of the payment by results system will be subject to the standard national tariff uplift.

In contracts for cleaning and similar services, there is normally no automatic price increase, although this is a matter for negotiation. Private sector contractors have the opportunity to include an allowance for wage increases in their tender, which will only be successful if it shows the best value for money for the NHS.

The exception is private finance initiative (PFI) contracts, where there is an annual adjustment to the service payment to allow for inflation, in accordance with HM Treasury policy. For cleaning and similar services in PFI, the adjustment reflects changes in employment costs rather than inflation.

NHS: Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much sick pay was paid to NHS employees in each of the last five years; what proportion of the NHS's staffing expenditure this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [215979]

Ann Keen: The amount of sick pay paid to national health service employees is not collected centrally.

NHS: Staff

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the research paper What Matters to Staff in the NHS, what percentage of respondents ticked each box for each question in the survey on which the report was based. [215013]

Ann Keen: The data on the percentage of respondents ticked which box in the survey upon which the "What Matters to staffing the NHS" report was based has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the survey What Matters to Staff in the NHS cost. [215014]

Ann Keen: The "What Matters to Staff in the NHS" survey cost £65,800.

NHS: Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent his Department liaises with local authorities on the provision of bus routes serving NHS facilities. [214207]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts and primary care trusts are responsible for liaising with local authorities on the provision of public transport, including bus routes, serving NHS facilities.

The Department's guidance document, "Health Technical Memorandum 07-03 Transport management and car-parking" identifies best practice in the development of local travel plans designed to influence transport to an individual site. The guidance also provides access to software developed by the Department of Transport that enables trusts to assess their travel plans and engage directly with local authorities to develop realistic, viable and acceptable arrangements. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Travel plans are likely to be required when trusts are expanding existing facilities or developing new facilities. In these cases, plans would be agreed with the local authority as part of the normal town planning approval process.

Nurses: Foreigners

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of newly-registered nurses who came from non-EU countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [215760]

Ann Keen: The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register shows that between 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 there were 4,830 newly-registered nurses and midwives who came from non-European Union countries, out of a total of 27,702. This represents 17.4 per cent. of the total of newly-registered nurses and midwives in the year to 31 March 2007.

Country/area	*Initial entrants*
England	17,270
Scotland	2,497
Wales	1,021
Northern Ireland	600
European Economic Area	1,484
Overseas	4,830
Total	27,702

Source:
NMC Register

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the Commission for Social Care Inspection assesses the extent to which care providers are offering effective nutritional care; what information the Commission for Social Care Inspection collects as part of its assessments of the extent to which care providers are offering effective nutritional care; and if he will place in the Library a copy of assessments made by the Commission for Social Care Inspection of the quality of nutritional care offered by care providers. [212199]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Under the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and National Minimum Standards (NMS), homes are required to provide, in adequate quantities, suitable, wholesome and nutritious food, which is varied, appealing and properly prepared and available at such times as may reasonably be required by service users.

Care homes are required to keep records, for inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), of the food provided for service users in sufficient detail to enable any person inspecting the record to determine whether the diet provided is satisfactory—nutritionally and otherwise—and including any special diets prepared for individual service users.

We have been informed by CSCI that, as part of the inspection of care providers, it surveys people using services, their relatives and visiting professionals. The survey form for care homes includes a section where respondents can record their comments on the food provided.

When inspecting a service, CSCI will assess and score it against key NMS. These include NMS 8—Healthcare, which requires that providers carry out nutritional screening of service users on admission and then on a periodic basis, and NMS 15—Meals and Mealtimes, which requires a service to provide balanced, healthy and appetising meals for service users.

In addition to scoring services against the NMS, CSCI would also require evidence of the quality of outcomes for people using the service. It can place statutory requirements on any service if it believes the wellbeing of people who use it may be at risk. The following table shows the percentages of services meeting or exceeding NMS 8 and 15 since 2002-03.

Care homes for younger adults

Percentage

	NMS 8—Healthcare	*NMS 15—Meals and mealtimes*
2002-03	86	81
2003-04	89	86
2004-05	89	88
2005-06	88	90
2006-07	88	90

Care homes for older people

Percentage

	NMS 8—Healthcare	*NMS 15—Meals and mealtimes*
2002-03	73	78
2003-04	78	82
2004-05	78	84
2005-06	78	85
2006-07	79	86

CSCI issues a range of guidance to its inspectors in the form of 'Clinical Triggers'—one of which is entitled "The management of nutritional care for older people in care homes"—which provide information on best practice and the action which should be taken if this is not being followed. The 'Clinical Triggers' are available on the CSCI professionals' website at

www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=7346&key.

Copies of "The management of nutritional care for older people in care homes" have been placed in the Library.

CSCI requires all providers to confirm that they carry out nutritional screening for people at risk of malnutrition in its annual quality assurance assessment. Where evidence raises concern about nutrition, CSCI will ensure that this is fully explored during the next inspection of the service. It will track, through the AQAA, the assessment of individual person-centred plans to establish that where required, nutritional screening has taken place.

Copies of all inspection reports for individual services are available on the CSCI website at:

www.csci.org.uk.

CSCI has not carried out additional separate assessments of the quality of nutritional care.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many brain-stem dead organ donors the NHS has capacity to maintain on life support at any one time; and for how long such patients may be maintained. [216220]

Ann Keen: Organ donors confirmed dead by brain stem testing will have received treatment prior to their death in critical care facilities. Usually the retrieval of donated organs takes place within 12 hours of death. A Programme Delivery Board has been established chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, the NHS Medical Director, to oversee delivery of the recommendations. This will include the need to work with commissioners and health providers to consider capacity and business needs in light of the recommendations and projected increase in organ donation.

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current treatment for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria is; and how services for PNH are currently commissioned and managed. [216627]

Dawn Primarolo: Standard treatment for paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria includes anti-coagulation, blood and platelet transfusions and in severe cases bone marrow transplant. Services are currently commissioned by primary care trusts from two specialist centres, based in Leeds and London.

An application to commission the service on a national basis has been submitted by the two national centres and will be considered by the National Specialised Commissioning Group later this month. The application includes proposals to fund a newly licensed drug, which may be of benefit to some patients.

Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* births, *(b)* stillbirths and *(c)* neonatal deaths there were in NHS operated units of each NHS hospital trust area in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [215728]

Ann Keen: The Department is unable to provide the information requested. While the Office for National Statistics does collect information on births, stillbirths and neonatal deaths, it is not able to break those figures down by national health service hospital trust areas, or to determine which births took place in an NHS operated unit.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures *(a)* the Healthcare Commission, *(b)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(c)* the National Patient Safety Authority use to monitor the incidence of pressure ulcers in care settings within its responsibility. [214462]

Ann Keen: The Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and the National Patient Safety Authority are independent organisations free to use whatever measures they feel appropriate to monitor the incidence of pressure ulcers in their responsible care settings.

Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve information about treatment services to help men with metastatic hormone refractory prostate cancer. [216753]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy sets out a series of actions to improve the care and experience of all cancer patients, including those with metastatic hormone refractory prostate cancer. Copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library.

Tumour specific national pathways are due to be launched on 21 July 2008, and it will be for cancer networks to adopt and implement these pathways. This will make nationally agreed information available to frontline cancer health professionals to offer to patients at key points in their cancer journey.

We are also introducing information prescriptions, personalised prescriptions which will draw on local as well as national knowledge and information. They will guide people to relevant websites, telephone numbers and support groups for their condition, as well as providing information directly to patients at appropriate times during their care pathway.

To support the introduction of information prescriptions, the National Cancer Action Team is working in partnership with cancer charities to develop a system to enable health professionals to generate tailored information prescriptions at any point in the cancer pathway. The system will draw on high quality national content, while making sure local details can be added. The project is being developed for roll out in 2009.

Public Health

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate the Government has made of the number of deaths from preventable illnesses in each of the last two years. [215853]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate the Government has made of the number of deaths from preventable illnesses in each of the last two years. (215853)

There is currently no official definition of deaths from preventable illnesses. However, an analysis published by ONS in May 2007[1] reported that 35 per cent of male deaths and 28 per cent of female deaths under the age of 75 years occurring in 2005 were considered preventable. 'Preventable' in this context means that the disease or event could potentially have been avoided by public health measures or change in individual behaviour.

[1] Weller L, Baker A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2007) Trends in avoidable mortality in England and Wales, 1993-2005. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 34: 6-25

Sheltered Housing: Health Services

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the formulation of a protocol for the registration of core services in sheltered housing; and if he will make a statement. [215427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no timetable for the formation of a protocol for the registration of services in sheltered housing. Providers of domiciliary care services in sheltered housing settings are already required by the Care Standards Act 2000 to register with the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Social Services

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the figure of £6 billion funding gap in social care in 2027 contained in his Department's publication A Case for Change was calculated. [215507]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The £6 billion funding gap figure is the difference between two estimates, both of which are based on a series of assumptions and are indicative only:

the future cost of social care services:

This looks at projected growth in the cost of social care, taking into account social and demographic pressures, anticipated rises in the unit costs of providing care, and assuming that this rising level of need is met by supply. These projections were carried out by Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU)[1,2]

expenditure on social care:

This uses potential economic growth of 2 per cent. real as an estimate for potential growth in government expenditure on social care. This figure is being used for analytical purposes only and should not be considered indicative of future government spending decisions.

Source:

1. Future demand for social care, 2005 to 2041: projections of demand for social care for older people in England, PSSRU DP 2514, available at www.psru.ac.uk

2. Future demand for social care, 2005 to 2041: projections of demand for social care and disability benefits for younger adults in England, PSSRU DP 2512, available at www.pssru.ac.uk

Strokes: Speech Impaired

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to encourage improvements in the provision of support for people with a communication disability following a stroke. [215396]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 528W.

Testicular Cancer

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rate from testicular cancer in *(a)* spearhead primary care trusts and *(b)* England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [215767]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the survival rate from testicular cancer in (a) spearhead primary care trusts and (b), England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [215767]

ONS regularly publishes survival rates for patients resident in (a) 'Spearhead' primary care trusts of England, compared with those resident in the rest of England. However, these figures are not available for testicular cancer. Survival rates for ten cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, ovary, prostate, rectum and stomach) are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14821&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

The latest available relative survival rates for testicular cancer in (b) England are for patients diagnosed in 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004. The one-year survival rate was 98.1 per cent and the five-year survival rate was 96.5 per cent. These rates are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Transplant Surgery: Kidneys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost savings on dialysis treatments arising from increases in kidney transplants; and if he will make a statement. [216223]

Ann Keen: From a health economic perspective, organ transplantation, in almost all cases, is a cost-effective use of resources. This is particularly the case for end stage renal failure. In 2005-06 England spent £932 million on renal services, of which 46 per cent. was on dialysis. For each annual cohort of renal patients that receive a transplant, the cost saving, over a 30-year period, is likely to amount to at least £100 million.

Ultra Orphan Therapies

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria have been established for funding ultra orphan therapies; and if he will make a statement. [216643]

Ann Keen: In December 2006, the Government re-issued Good Practice Guidance on Managing the Introduction of New Healthcare Interventions and links to NICE technology appraisal guidance to the local national health service, which states that funding for treatments should not be withheld simply because guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is unavailable but that decisions should be made on the basis of the available evidence. The guidance also suggests alternative sources of information for NHS organisations to consult in the absence of NICE guidance. Copies of the guidance have already been placed in the Library.

The draft NHS constitution makes clear the patient's right to expect local decisions on funding for drugs for which NICE guidance is not available to be made rationally following proper consideration of the evidence. Where the local NHS decides not to fund a treatment, the patient and clinician can expect an explanation. To underpin this, the Government will require primary care trusts to put in place clear and transparent arrangements both for local decision-making on funding of new drugs and for considering exceptional funding requests, and to publish information on those arrangements.

SCOTLAND

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216605]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; information on the numbers of staff holding apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships are retained by those Departments.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215540]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has made no licensing applications. However, in 2006-07 and 2007-08, the office made three listed building consent applications in connection with Dover house, its headquarters in London; these were

Improvement to the reception area

closed circuit television

fire protection improvement works to cupboards

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many reviews of regulation his Department has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215626]

David Cairns: Since July 2007 the Scotland Office has not conducted any reviews of regulation.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in his Department in the last 24 months. [215610]

David Cairns: One Scotland Office security pass was lost in each of 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216695]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; the Office does not maintain a central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date the euro changeover plan of his Department was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [215529]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Wills) on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214901]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214902]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not have canteen facilities. The only expenditure on food is purchases for occasional events and receptions. The Scotland Office does not keep separate records of the spending on food. Spending on food follows Government policy on sustainability and Fairtrade.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215668]

David Cairns: None.

JUSTICE

By-elections: Haltemprice and Howden

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what he expects the cost to the public purse to be of the by-election in Haltemprice and Howden; what the maximum cost of the freepost afforded to each candidate will be; and if he will break down all other costs associated with the by-election. [216996]

Mr. Wills: It is not possible accurately to predict the cost of a particular by-election or provide a breakdown in advance since they are unique events which often involve extra costs for elements specific to that election (such as additional security or media management costs). However, average costs for the conduct of past by-elections have been around £70,000 to £80,000.

In addition, candidates at parliamentary elections are entitled to send, free of charge for postage, one election communication either to each elector in the constituency or to each household. The Government pay the delivery costs. The cost to the Government of a candidate sending one communication to each elector in the Haltemprice and Howden constituency will be around £18,960. The cost of a candidate sending one communication to each household in the constituency will be around £3,930. I understand that, to date, the Royal Mail estimates the total cost of this service at the Haltemprice and Howden by-election at around £112,600.

Courts: Sight Impaired

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are in place in *(a)* magistrates' courts and *(b)* the Crown Court to assist defendants who are either blind or partially sighed. [215898]

Maria Eagle: Her Majesty's courts service is committed to ensuring that the Crown court and magistrates courts meet the needs of blind and partially sighted defendants as required by the Disability Discrimination Act. This includes personal help for the individual through the provision of documents in Braille or large print, direct assistance from staff while in custody or on court premises, and more indirect help in catering for their needs through the design of court buildings. The Equal Treatment Bench Book provides guidance on safeguarding the interests of disabled people during the trial process.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which unimplemented parts of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 he plans to implement; and when; [215390]

(2) which parts of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 remain unimplemented. [215391]

Mr. Straw: Only a small percentage of the 335 substantive sections in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have yet to be fully implemented. These are; S.23A; s.34-s.35; s.43; s.62-s.66; s.137-s.138; s.151; s.154-s.155; s.161; s.181; s.188; s.280-s.283; and s.298.

s.34 is due to be implemented by the end of 2008. Officials are actively working on the remaining provisions.

considering implementation in light of pilot exercises; resource implications; or the examination of other necessary procedures and practices.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to bring section 62 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 into force. [215392]

Mr. Straw: Before deciding whether to implement sections 62-66 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, we have decided to examine the operation in practice of the right of appeal against a terminating ruling which is also provided for by Part 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and which was brought into force in April 2005. Officials have been instructed to conduct a review which will be commenced shortly. Once the evaluation has been concluded a decision will be taken regarding commencement.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215123]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice and its agencies have entered into IT contracts, in the last two years, with Logica for application services and with Atos Origin for infrastructure services.

In the same period, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, entered into IT licensing contracts with Oracle, IBM and Computer Associates, and the following IT contracts for the services indicated:

Atos Origin: A help desk service for the Exhibit Portal.

Steria: Development and implementation of software applications;

IBM: Development and implementation of software applications;

Logica: A web-based management information system;

Cable and Wireless: Secure email together with a Government service intranet to Criminal Justice departments and a Criminal Justice extranet connection for network testing purposes;

Fujitsu: Management maintenance and support services for the Criminal Justice Exchange.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212320]

Mr. Straw: In the last five years the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has commissioned five independent inquiries and sponsored the Hutton inquiry.

The creation of the MoJ in May 2007 transferred the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) from the Home Office to the MoJ. The Home Office commissioned five independent inquiries in relation to NOMS in the preceding five years. The former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) sponsored the Hutton inquiry. Details as follows:

Inquiry into the death of police constable Gerald Walker

The inquiry into the death of police constable Gerald Walker was published in March 2004. This inquiry, by HM Inspectorate of Probation, commissioned by the Home Secretary. The inquiry addressed events leading to the death of PC Gerald Walker, included consideration of policies and procedures relating to post release licences and related issues of criminal justice inter-agency working and communication. The inquiry cost £40,000. The steps taken following the inquiry included improvements to police—probation practice and the introduction of a Joint National Protocol between police and the Probation Service.

Zahid Mubarek Inquiry

The Zahid Mubarek inquiry was announced in April 2004, following the House of Lords ruling that an independent public investigation be held into the murder of Zahid Mubarek by his racist cellmate in Feltham Young Offender Institution in 2000. Mr. Justice Keith, chair of the inquiry, was tasked with looking into the events leading up to the murder and to make recommendations on the prevention of such attacks in the future. The report of the Zahid Mubarek inquiry was published in June 2006 and included 88 recommendations related to the prevention of any future deaths in circumstances similar to that of Mr. Mubarek. The Government welcomed the report and published an initial response. A full response to each recommendation was given within two months. Many of these reflected policies and procedures already put in place at HM Prison Service establishments. The inquiry cost £4.2 million.

Inquiry into the supervision of Peter Williams by Nottingham City Youth Offending Team

The Inquiry into the supervision of Peter Williams by Nottingham City Youth Offending Team was published in September 2005 by HM Inspectorate of Probation. This inquiry was commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to inquire into the supervision of Peter Williams who had been convicted, in 2005, of murder while on licence. The inquiry also assessed the local area implementation of relevant policies, the governance of the local Youth Offending Team (YOT) and any wider issues. The inquiry cost £30,000. The steps taken following the inquiry required the YJB and the local YOT to take improvement action on enforcement, electronic monitoring, intensive supervision and training.

Independent review of a serious further offence case of Damien Hanson and Elliot White

An independent review of a serious further offence case of Damien Hanson and Elliot White was published in February 2006 by HM Inspectorate of Probation. The inquiry was commissioned by the Home Secretary to inquire into the decisions and management of London probation area relating to the sentences being served by Hanson and White at the time when they committed the offences. The offenders had been convicted of murder in 2005. The inquiry cost £40,000. The steps taken following the inquiry were that the Probation Circulars 49/05, 15/06 and 22/06 were issued requiring areas to undertake a comprehensive review of their risk assessment and management of offenders, and to take improvement actions including training.

The Case of Approved Premises in Avon and Somerset

The case of approved premises in Avon and Somerset. This inquiry was published in March 2007 by HM Inspectorate of Probation. The inquiry was commissioned by the Home Secretary to investigate allegations made by the BBC Panorama programme and to make any recommendations necessary to improve the management of dangerous offenders. The inquiry cost £100,000. The steps taken following the review were that the probation area and the approved premises were required to address recommendations regarding resourcing, training, drug testing, and liaison with police.

Costs to HMI Probation were met from within their allocated budget. The cost figures aforementioned are derived using an approach, which absorbs all the support administration and related additional costs of each piece of work into an average cost per hour. This provides cost figures as a 'calculated proportion of the allocated budget'.

The Hutton Inquiry

The Hutton inquiry was commissioned on 18 July 2003, and sponsored by the then Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton. Its terms of reference were

> "...urgently to conduct an investigation into the circumstance surrounding the death of Dr. Kelly."

Lord Hutton completed his report in January 2004. The costs incurred by the inquiry itself were £1.68 million for the financial year 2003-04. These were the costs to the then, Department for Constitutional Affairs, as the sponsor Department for the inquiry. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's report in full.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214554]

Mr. Straw: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; are consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215229]

Mr. Straw: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007 reimbursable expenses by special advisers up to the end of March 2008 was £1,194.86. Because the Department is only 14 months old information for previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only by retrieving paper records from storage and manually collating this information at a disproportionate cost.

Procedures for reimbursing expenses are set out for staff in their handbooks and are in line with the provisions set out in the civil service management code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215462]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice has answered 2,111 ordinary written questions and 647 named day questions this session. On average it has taken 5.72 sitting days to answer ordinary written questions and 2.32 sitting days to answer named day questions in Parliament.

As my Department was not established until 9 May 2007 the information for previous years is not held centrally and could be provided only by manually collating each question at a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence: Prisoners Release

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many men convicted of domestic violence offences have been released under the end of custody licence scheme; what risk assessment or accommodation check was carried out in each case; what records he holds on whether any such offenders have re-offended; whether any such offenders have been recalled to prison; and if he will make a statement. [215749]

Mr. Straw: Domestic violence is not a specific offence. Offenders who commit domestic violence are charged with a generic offence of assault. It would not be possible to identify the number of prisoners convicted of domestic violence related offences without examining individual case files which would incur disproportionate cost. Similarly, it is also not possible to identify prisoners convicted of domestic violence related offences who have gone on to reoffend or who have been recalled to custody.

Prisoners released under the ECL scheme are not subject to individualised risk assessment; the assessment of eligibility is against the criteria of the scheme. Prisoners serving a sentence for a serious violent offence are excluded from ECL. All prisoners released on ECL would have been released at their statutory release date a maximum of 18 days later. It is for this reason that ECL operates according to precise fixed criteria. All release arrangements that would otherwise have taken place 18 days later are brought forward to the ECL release date and any licence conditions that would apply at the statutory release date are included on the ECL licence.

Prisons are instructed that they should take appropriate action in response to any information they have received that a prisoner poses a risk of domestic violence or to a specific victim on release. That information should be provided to the police and, where appropriate, submitted to the multi-agency public protection panel, in line with routine risk management arrangements. In such cases, release on ECL should not take place until measures to address the risk have been put in place.

The full policy on ECL is set out in prison service instruction 42/2007. This may be found on the prison service's website:

http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc

Elections: Fraud

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people who were unable to vote in the 2008 London Mayoral election owing to their vote having been used fraudulently by another; and what steps he is taking to prevent such fraud. [216657]

Bridget Prentice: The Greater London Authority was responsible for the conduct and running of the London Mayoral election in 2008. Their officials have confirmed that there is only one complaint that is currently being investigated by the Metropolitan Police. This relates to an alleged instance of someone voting twice. They are aware of no other instances where there is any reported suspicion of an elector being deprived of their vote by the action of another person.

The Government take the risk of electoral fraud extremely seriously and have taken significant steps to tighten up the security in relation to voting. Recent legislative changes include the use of personal identifiers by postal voters and new and increased penalties for those convicted of electoral fraud.

We are continuing to work closely with the Electoral Commission, police, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted.

Electronic Tagging

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases of tagged offenders *(a)* disarming their tags and *(b)* breaking curfews while tagged have been reported to police in each of the last three years; and how many resulted in prosecution; [210632]

(2) how many cases of tagged offenders *(a)* disarming their tags and *(b)* breaking curfews while tagged were reported to police in each of the last three years. [215860]

Mr. Straw: The electronic monitoring contractors are only required to report to the police breaches of curfew for those subject to court bail conditions under the Bail Act 1976. According to data provided by the contractors the number of breaches reported to the police in such cases, in the previous three financial years, is as follows:

	Cases of deliberate tag tampers (including removals)		*Cases breached for other reasons*		*Bail curfew orders*
Financial year	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	
2005-06	681	8	3,747	44	8,548
2006-07	1,991	11	9,578	52	18,327
2007-08	1,971	8	14,205	57	24,936

There has been a large increase in the number of bailed cases in the last three years, particularly since September 2005 when courts were encouraged to make greater use of curfew as a condition of adult bail (curfew as a bail condition for juveniles has been available since 2002). The large increase in the number of reported breaches reflects this.

While there has been a rise in the percentage of cases breached for other reasons, such as late back at the start of the curfew, the number of cases breached for tag tampers, as a percentage of bail curfews, fell from 11 per cent. in 2006-07 to 8 per cent. in 2007-08.

The figures include multiple breaches/tag tampers committed by tagged persons on bail and reported to the police. The system is designed to ensure that any attempt to remove a tag within the curfew address automatically registers as a tamper at the electronic monitoring service provider's control centre.

Data on the number of cases resulting in a return to court are not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through collating information from each police force.

European Convention on Human Rights

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the United Kingdom to accede to protocol 7 of the European convention on human rights. [216968]

Mr. Wills: The United Kingdom will be in a position to accede to the seventh protocol when legislation to abolish or equalise three rules of matrimonial property law has been passed. We are seeking a suitable legislative vehicle in which to do so.

Information Commissioner: Public Relations

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many press, marketing and communications staff are employed by the Information Commissioner's office. [215781]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's office is an independent body created by statute. Its responsibilities include handling complaints made under the Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The ICO has a communication team of 11 people who deal with online media, internal communications, market research, marketing, media strategy, publications and public affairs.

The ICO also uses a public relations agency to provide a press office. A recent re-tendering exercise found that the estimated costs for setting up an in-house press office were higher than employing a public relations agency to do this work.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he had with the Electoral Commission on the triggering proposals in the White Paper on party finance and expenditure before its publication. [215304]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) met with the chairman of and officials from the Electoral Commission prior to the White Paper's publication to discuss its content. Officials at the Ministry of Justice have also been in regular contact with counterparts at the Electoral Commission on a wide range of issues covered in the White Paper. Ministry of Justice officials are continuing to discuss implementation of the White Paper with the Electoral Commission.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether an impact assessment, including a small firms impact assessment, will be produced in relation to the proposals in the party finance and expenditure White Paper to assess the impact on *(a)* unincorporated associations and *(b)* political parties. [215305]

Bridget Prentice: In developing proposals for reform of party finance and expenditure, my Department is conducting all necessary impact assessments in accordance with Government policy. These assessments will take into account any relevant impact on specific groups, including unincorporated associations and political parties.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) further to the publication of the party finance and expenditure White Paper, what his anticipated timetable is for the consultation by the Electoral Commission on the new trigger rules guidance; [215323]

(2) further to page 45 of the party finance and expenditure White Paper, whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Electoral Commission plans to consult on the definitions of election-influencing expenditure for the purpose of the new trigger rules; [215324]

(3) further to the publication of the party finance and expenditure White Paper, whether the proposed new guidance on the trigger rules will be subject to definition in primary legislation. [215325]

Bridget Prentice: Publication of the White Paper was intended to encourage discussion and comment on the future of party funding regulation and the specific proposals for legislation. Legislative proposals will be put before this House shortly. The Ministry of Justice does not propose consultation on the matters likely to constitute 'electoral purposes' in the new regime. The Electoral Commission will be charged with publishing guidance. Any consultation that the Electoral Commission may wish to conduct before publishing guidance on this, or any other, topic is a matter for the Commission to decide.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there will be transitional arrangements for the implementation of the new trigger rules proposed in the party finance and expenditure White Paper. [215327]

Bridget Prentice: No decision has yet been taken as to the precise arrangements for implementation of the rules on triggering. Triggering will be the subject of legislation which will be brought forward shortly.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's copy of the minutes of the inter-party talks on party funding of 31 October 2007. [215329]

Bridget Prentice: As stated by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) in the debate on the publication of the White Paper on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 695, release of these papers is a matter for Sir Hayden Phillips.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice further to the publication of the party finance and expenditure White Paper, whether the proposed new trigger rules will apply to *(a)* sitting councillors and *(b)* councillor candidates. [215330]

Bridget Prentice: Changes to the rules on triggering will be included in a forthcoming Bill. The new rules will not apply to councillors or councillor candidates.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people convicted of *(a)* robbery and *(b)* actual bodily harm have been released on end of custody licence; [216952]

(2) how many people have been released on end of custody licence who had previously been refused a home detention curfew; [216953]

(3) how many people have been released on end of custody licence since 27 June 2007. [216954]

Mr. Straw: The available information on numbers released by offence is published monthly, in the statistical bulletin end of custody licence releases and recalls, available from the library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustody licence.htm

The following table shows the available information on numbers of prisoners by offence group who were released under the ECL scheme from 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008:

Offence group	*Releases*
Violence against the person[1]	5,468
Sexual	8
Robbery	668
Burglary	2,609
Theft and Handling	6,563
Fraud and Forgery	551
Drug offences	1,218
Motoring offences	3,529
Other offences	7,778
Offence not recorded	487
Total	28,879

[1] Prisoners convicted of assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.47) are not excluded from release on ECL. It would not be possible to identify the number of prisoners convicted of assault occasioning actual bodily harm without examining individual case files which would incur disproportionate cost. These offences are included in the category 'violence against the person'.

Prisoners serving sentences for the most serious violent offences and registered sex offenders are excluded from ECL. A complete list of exclusions is contained within PSI 42/2007. This may be found on the prison service website at the following address:

http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/
PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_ licence.doc

Of the 28,879 prisoners released under ECL between 29 June 2007 and 31 May 2008, the latest date for which this figure is available, around 5,300 had previously been refused release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Open University

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners *(a)* took and *(b)* passed degree courses at the Open University in 2006; and in which subjects. [216390]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available by calendar year.

During academic year 2006-07 1,211 prisoners undertook studies towards an Open University degree, with 1,065 successfully completing the course module (or modules) they studied during that year. These figures exclude some learners who have been released since the end of the academic year. Of those undertaking studies, 393 studied Openings Courses. The 10 most popular course modules studied were:

Social Science Level 1
Openings: Understanding Society
Openings: Understanding Management
Openings: Open to Change
Arts Level 1
Openings Starting with Maths
Open Mathematics Level 1
Understanding Human Nutrition
Openings: Understanding Health
Using Mathematics

My Department funds a prisoner's Openings Course and/or a first course module through the Open University which may, but will not necessarily, lead into further study to degree level.

In the 2006-07 academic year, 21 Open University graduated in prison. The subjects in which degrees were awarded were:

BA (Hons) Humanities
BA (Hons) Business Studies
Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
BA/BSc (Hons) Social Sciences
BA/BSc (Hons) Human Geography
BA/BSc Open Degree

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities are available to prisoners to take Open University courses; and if he will make a statement. [216391]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

My Department makes financial provision available to prisoners to study Open University courses, where they do not have sufficient funds of their own and works in collaboration with the Open University and the Prison Service. My Department funds an Openings Course, and/or a first course for a prisoner accepted onto a programme of study leading to an undergraduate qualification, as well as meeting the ongoing additional tutorial costs the Open University incurs.

In addition to this financial contribution, the prison gives support through the Head of Learning and Skills to prisoners during their study, and the final decision about whether a prisoner is suitable to take a particular course rests with the prison governor in the light of security and public protection considerations. The Learning and Skills Council contracts with Offender Learning and Skills Service providers requires them to provide practical support and guidance, other than tuition, to prisoners studying for Open University courses.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people from *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire committed suicide while in prison and (i) on and (ii) not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years; [215815]

(2) how many ex-offenders committed suicide within a fortnight of leaving prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215817]

(3) how many women aged 30 to 50 years committed suicide in prison while *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years. [215829]

Maria Eagle: The home address of those who die in prison custody is not recorded centrally. To verify home address information (which in some cases would be 'no fixed abode') would involve contacting each individual prison and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information about suicides amongst people released from prison is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm will be cared for using the ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07 to replace the old F2052SH system. The term 'suicide watch' is not employed in National Offender Management Service prison suicide prevention policies, as it has been found to be unhelpful in that it could imply a lack of staff interaction with at-risk prisoners.

All at-risk prisoners are subject to a minimum required frequency of staff supervision (conversations and observations) set by an individual case review. Such frequency can vary widely between different at-risk prisoners depending on the level of risk and the needs of the distressed individual.

The following table provides a response based on whether or not an ACCT plan or F2052SH at-risk care plan was open at the time of death.

	Identified at-risk at time of death	Number of self-inflicted deaths[1] of women aged 30 to 50
1998	Yes	2
	No	0
1999	Yes	1
	No	1
2000	Yes	0
	No	1
2001	Yes	1
	No	1
2002	Yes	1
	No	2
2003	Yes	1
	No	3
2004	Yes	1
	No	5
2005	Yes	1
	No	1
2006	Yes	1
	No	0
2007	Yes	2
	No	2

[1] NOMS definition of prisoner self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Prisons

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used in considering the location of a titan prison. [215824]

Mr. Hanson: The main criterion, in considering the location of a titan prison, is where demand for prison places outstrips supply. The titan prisons consultation paper, published by the National Offender Management Service on 5 June, identified three regions where the demand for prison places is likely to be greatest: London and the Thames corridor/Thames gateway, the west midlands and the north west. Site searches in these areas are currently underway.

In terms of the sites, the minimum criteria for consideration are:

Minimum site of 50 acres.

Preferably brown field sites, regular in shape, level and not overlooked.

Ideally no restrictions, such as listed buildings, rights of way across the site, other third party rights, etc.

Good access from the public highway.

Ideally all mains services connections already exist.

Prisons: Telephones

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 684W, on prisons: telephones, if as part of the re-tendering process he will undertake to bring prison telephone tariffs closer to comparable tariffs outside prison. [216975]

Maria Eagle: The re-tendering project for provision of telephones to prisoners after 2011 will commence later this year. The pinphone system will continue to be a specific product for safe use by prisoners. One of the aims will be to ensure more reasonable call charges for prisoners than currently. This aim will be balanced against a range of other technical and security requirements.

Prospects Project: Exeter

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of stay was of the 132 referrals to the Prospects Project in Exeter between December 2005 and February 2008; and what the cost was of each referral. [216992]

Mr. Hanson: The average length stay for the 132 Prospects Exeter residents between December 2005 and February 2008 was 39 days.

The total operational costs for period in question was £1,544,812 and the total available bedspaces for that period was 14,220 (the Exeter project having 18 beds). The cost of each bedspace was therefore £109 per day.

The average cost per resident within Prospects Exeter between December 2005 and February 2008 was £4,251.

The decision to terminate the pilot will save £4 million in 2008-09 and £6 million a year thereafter. Resources will be redirected to services that offer greater value for money and impact on a larger offender group.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were admitted to the Prospects project in each year between December 2005 and February 2008. [216993]

Mr. Hanson: The number of people admitted to the Prospects project in each year between December 2005 and February 2008 are as follows:

Exeter

	Admissions
January (when the first residents were admitted)-December 2006	37
January-December 2007	82
January-February 2008	13

Preston

	Residents
2006	27
2007	40
January-February 2008	6

Merseyside

No residents were admitted as the Prospects project at Merseyside as the project did not become operational before the Prospects programme was closed.

Bristol

	Residents
Male	
December 2005	4
2006	40
2007	68
January-February 2008	18

Bristol

	Residents
Female	
2006	[1]0
2007	12
January-February 2008	4

[1] Site not operational

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed at the Prospects project in Exeter; and what their duties were. [216994]

Mr. Hanson: The Prospects project at Exeter employed a manager and deputy manager, six full-time assistant managers and four full-time night managers. There was an additional (equivalent) 1.5 staff which provided project resource and administrative support. The manager had overall responsibility for service delivery and management of staff groups, the deputy manager oversaw day to day regime delivery and provide offender management expertise regarding risk assessment and sentence planning; assistant managers would deliver the Prospects regime and deliver the overall sentence plan within the residential unit and in the community; night managers provided supervision and security cover throughout the night. Exeter drugs partnership were also commissioned to provide specialist drugs workers to deliver a drug abstinence regime as well as individual counselling.

Reoffenders: Drugs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ex-offenders were arrested for drug offences within a fortnight of leaving prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215816]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of offenders released from custody who committed a re-offence for a drugs offence within a fortnight of their release (up to and including 14 days), where the offender was subsequently convicted of this offence at court. These figures have been taken from the most recently available adult re-offending cohorts, which include all prisoners released[1] in the first quarters of 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Quarter one	*Number of offenders committing a drug re-offence within a fortnight of release*	*Total number of releases from prison*[1]	*Percentage of offenders committing a drug offence within a fortnight of release*
2000	34	15,727	0.2
2002	36	15,578	0.2
2003	37	14,358	0.3
2004	34	15,761	0.2
2005	38	14,595	0.3

[1] Where the offender could be matched to the Police National Computer (PNC)

Note:

Data on re-offending was not produced for the 2001 Q1 cohort because of a problem with archived data on community sentences.

Television: Licensing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in England and Wales were *(a)* fined and *(b)* prosecuted for non-payment of television licence fees in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [215033]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons fined, and proceeded against at magistrates courts, for offences relating to television licence evasion in England and Wales, by region for the years 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons fined for offences relating to TV licence evasion by region in England and Wales, 2002-06[1]

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	[4]8,382	7,885	7,221	[4]8,941	[4]8,640
North West	[4]20,076	16,152	22,056	26,345	25,068
Yorkshire and Humberside	14,491	10,690	11,206	13,653	12,613
East Midlands	9,478	8,213	8,466	[4]9,818	[4]8,126
West Midlands	9,316	[4]8,290	[4]11,661	[4]13,615	[4]12,617
East of England	4,324	[4]3,840	4,501	[4]4,692	8,280
London	10,266	7,064	12,127	17,359	14,845
South East	5,999	5,633	7,084	[4]7,171	[4]7,458
South West	4,515	3,739	3,902	6,729	6,627

Number of persons fined for offences relating to TV licence evasion by region in England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2, 3]

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Wales	7,722	7,307	7,931	9,584	9,600
England and Wales[5]	94,569	78,813	96,155	117,907	113,874

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

[4] Following quality checks, data for certain police force areas within corresponding regions are not considered reliable enough for publication.

[5] England and Wales totals excludes those police force areas with data quality issues.

Source:

CJEAU - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to TV licence evasion by region in England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2]

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	[4]9,199	8,645	7,731	[4]9,884	[4]9,407
North West	[4]22,369	18,342	24,994	29,293	27,133
Yorkshire and Humberside	16,878	12,633	13,025	15,597	14,215
East Midlands	10,850	9,576	9,941	[4]11,308	[4]9,218
West Midlands	10,863	[4]9,611	[4]13,569	[4]15,489	[4]14,171
East of England	5,109	[4]4,850	5,753	[4]5,746	9,640
London	13,209	9,460	16,768	24,198	19,219
South East	7,357	7,259	9,015	[4]8,917	[4]8,800
South West	5,492	4,740	5,746	7,998	7,615
Wales	8,812	8,642	9,055	10,622	10,460
England and Wales[5]	110,138	93,754	115,597	139,052	129,878

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

[4] Following quality checks, data for certain Police Force Areas within corresponding regions are not considered reliable enough for publication.

[5] England and Wales totals excludes those Police Force Areas with data quality issues.

Source:

CJEAU - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Sequestration

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to begin the public consultation on carbon capture readiness. [215276]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]:* On 30 June, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform announced the launch of the consultation 'Toward Carbon Capture and Storage'. The consultation, which runs till 22 September, seeks views from a wide range of stakeholders on the regulation of carbon storage, what carbon capture ready means and how it might be implemented and various other aspects of the EU's draft directive on the geological storage of carbon dioxide. The document can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46810.pdf

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [211005]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007-08 the number of domestic flights and costs for such flights was:

(a) Number of flights: 2,691;

(b) Cost of flights: £562,491.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code and the ministerial code.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The number of individual domestic air flights undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of Companies House in the financial year 2007-08 was 224, at a total cost of £23,157.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question asking how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives in the most recent year for which figures are available: and at what cost.

We are only able to collect flight data booked via Corporate Credit Cards which is the most likely way that flights are booked. Although we noted 479 flights were booked in 2007-08 it is likely that some bookings were for more than one person. It is not possible to get individual details by person.

Departmental Billing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any central government construction clients have been penalised for not adopting the Office of Government Commerce Fair Payment Charter's commitment to payment periods not exceeding 30 days since 1 January 2008. [215862]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

No central Government construction clients have been penalised since 1 January 2008. OGC continues to work constructively both with clients and construction industry trade bodies to assist the implementation of the Fair Payment initiative by all members of project delivery teams.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to how many projects the Office of Government Commerce's Fair Payment Charter will be applied in 2008. [215864]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The principles of the Fair Payment Charter are required to be applied to all central Government construction projects over £1 million since January 2008.

The precise number of projects affected will depend on the number of projects initiated by individual departments in line with their business priorities for the year. As an indication departmental data on time/cost performance during 2006-07 indicated approximately 180 projects.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what penalties will be imposed on central government construction clients which do not adopt the Office of Government Commerce Fair Payment Charter's commitment to end withholding of retentions. [215865]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Fair Payment Charter commits both clients and supply chains working for Government to end the practice of unjustifiably withholding payments.

Retentions may continue to be used by Government clients where they are considered appropriate but such arrangements can only be replicated throughout the supply chain on the same contract terms. Any withholding of payment due to defects or non-delivery must be proportionate and justified in line with arrangements made at the time of the contract.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214696]

Mr. Thomas: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies house and they will respond to you directly.

Information requested for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to obtain such information would lead to disproportionate costs.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [215379]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 July 2008]:* Central records indicate that the Department has spent the following on consultancy in each of the last five years.

	£ million
2004-05	86
2005-06	53.6
2006-07	40.3
2007-08	26
2008-09	[1]1

[1] To date.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212532]

Mr. Thomas: Arrangements to work at home on a permanent or ad hoc basis are agreed locally between staff members and line managers. An exact number can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department supports flexible working and has a home working policy setting out guidance for staff and line managers on agreeing and maintaining home working arrangements. A range of flexible computing options are available to facilitate home working across the Department. At present approximately 1,800 staff in the Department have access to flexible computing technology.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208406]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows.

Staff in post including UKTI and OME

	Number	*Percentage*
Male	3,031	55
Female	1,364	45
Ethnic minority	377	12
Notified disabled	240	8
Not heterosexual[1]	112	6

[1] Source: Departmental Staff Survey November 2007. *Source:* Departmental HR Record system April 2008.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213287]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform awards non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

1. Special bonuses to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

2. Annual performance awards paid to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available the number of staff receiving these awards, as a proportion of the total work force they represent, total amount of bonuses and the size of the single largest payment for which this information can be provided is in the following table.

	Special bonuses			*Performance awards*			
Financial year	*Number of staff receiving*	*Proportion of the work force receiving (percentage)*	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Proportion of the work force receiving (percentage)*	*Total value (£)*	*Largest single payment of bonuses (£)*
2007-08	1,238	36	693,386	1,065	31	[2]2,265,502	46,500
2006-07	919	20	491,669	1,286	29	2,532,180	15,000
2005-06	1,237	27	521,902	1,257	28	1,808,630	8,000
2004-05	1,261	26	498,592	1,274	26	1,563,180	8,000
2003-04	1,458	29	572,149	1,269	26	1,505,328	6,000

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] Includes staff who were transferred from DTI to DIUS as part of the June 2007 Machinery of Government Changes as these staff received a DTI/BERR pay award in 2007. Does not include those staff transferred into BERR from Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the June 2007 Machinery of Government Changes as these staff received Cabinet Office and DCLG pay awards respectively in 2007.

Notes:

1. In 2007-08 the total value of bonuses paid was approximately 1.5 per cent. of the total Department's paybill.

2. The special bonuses and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's paybill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215203]

Mr. Thomas: Within the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform the costs of all publication-related expenditure is captured against one account code. The cost of identifying subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications would therefore be above the disproportionate cost threshold (£700). I can confirm that all such expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214697]

Mr. Thomas: BERR encourages secondment as an effective method of developing individuals and sharing knowledge and experience with other organisations. A secondee to the Department is a person who works in BERR for an agreed temporary period with the intention of returning to their employer at the end. A secondment in the Department does not affect the employment status of a secondee.

Selection of a secondee into the Department is based on merit. In all cases a secondee will be the person most capable of effectively undertaking the duties of the position they have been recruited for. When there is competition for a role, the most capable person is selected in line with good practice in recruitment and selection.

BERR is an equal opportunity employer and all secondees are subject to the Department's Equal Opportunities Policies. Secondees will have access to an e-learning diversity awareness training which becomes available to all BERR staff summer this year. This follows the diversity awareness training for key leaders which was delivered the end of 2007 to senior civil servants and some middle managers in the Department.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 18-20W, on departmental standards, what the scope was of the Gateway Review undertaken in 2007-08 on his Department's project *(a)* HECToR, *(b)* Sellafield PBO Competition and *(c)* Magnox South Competition. [215490]

Mr. Thomas: OGC (Office of Government Commerce) Gateway Reviews are conducted using a methodology developed by OGC. There are five Gateway Reviews (1-5) during the lifecycle of a project, three before contract award and two looking at service implementation and confirmation of the operational benefits. Programmes are subject to a Gate 0 Review. Gateway reports are conducted on a confidential basis for the programme or project's senior responsible owner (SRO).

The 2007-08 HECToR Gateway Review was conducted at Gate 4—"Readiness for Service". Gateway 4 checks that the organisation is ready to make the transition to implementation and that ownership and governance are in place for operation. As a result of the machinery of government changes in 2007-08, the HECToR project now no longer comes under the remit of BERR. Instead it is overseen by DIUS. The 2007-08 Reviews of the Sellafield PBO Competition and Magnox South

Competition projects were conducted at Gateway 2—"Delivery Strategy". Gateway 2 provides assurance that the acquisition and delivery strategy are appropriate for the desired business change and that implementation plans are in place.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215911]

Mr. Thomas: Waste produced from this Department's HQ Estate that is not recycled is recovered at an 'energy from waste' facility. The resulting fly and bottom ash forms the bulk of waste material going to landfill. The following shows total waste/recycled waste/waste to landfill over the last two years, in tonnes:

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Total waste	530.4	640.8
Waste recycled	281.5	332.0
Recovered energy from waste	243.5	302.1
Waste to landfill (mainly fly ash)	5.4	6.7

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215186]

Mr. Thomas: The average cost in 2007-08 of employing an information officer in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was £3,344 a month (£40,128 a year) including allowances, national insurance and superannuation. The average cost of employing a senior information officer was £4,049 a month inclusive (£48,588 a year); and the average cost of employing a chief press officer was £5,655 a month, inclusive (£67,860 a year).

Electricity Generation: Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the resilience of electricity substations to flooding. [211426]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Minister initiated a review into the resilience of electricity substations to flooding following the floods of summer 2007. The review was carried out under the framework of the energy emergencies executive, a joint BERR/Ofgem/industry body, and led by the Energy Networks Association (ENA) with support from BERR, Ofgem, electricity network owners and the Environment Agency. The first phase of this work, completed in March 2008, established a framework for the assessment of flood risk, societal impact of a loss of electricity supplies during a flood incident and options for protecting electricity substations from flooding.

The review has now commenced work on the second phase, which includes application of the framework on a site by site basis to all the major electricity substations identified as being located in a flood plain. This work is due to be completed by the end of December 2008.

Energy: Scotland

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the energy requirement in Scotland was on *(a)* 13 March 2008 and *(b)* 27 March 2008. [209400]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The information is as follows:

On 13 March 2008, gas demand in Scotland was 310 GWh and electricity demand 101 GWh.

On 27 March 2008, gas demand in Scotland was 297 GWh and electricity demand 101 GWh.

Source:

National Grid.

The Government do not collect data on petrol or other primary fuel consumption on a daily basis.

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to extend the Enterprise Investment Scheme to allow all relatives to be eligible for tax relief on the purchase of new shares in smaller high-risk companies. [216503]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

At the 2008 Budget, the Government announced a consultation on the Enterprise Investment Scheme. This invited suggestions for changes to the Scheme across the board, including the rules that deny income tax relief on their investments to certain relatives of individuals who run companies.

The consultation closed on 20 June and we are now considering the responses. We will report back in the autumn.

Exports: Military Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support the Government is providing towards obtaining orders for the Hawk advanced jet trainer from *(a)* Singapore, *(b)* India, *(c)* Norway and *(d)* Japan. [214205]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation works in support of UK based companies to help them succeed in the international market place. BAE Systems' Hawk is the world's most successful jet trainer and is in service in 18 countries. UKTI DSO has lent full support to campaigns to market Hawk to Singapore and to secure additional orders from India. Potential prospects in other markets are kept under review and support provided as required.

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1247-48W, on foreign investment in the UK, what percentage the figure given represents of all takeovers which occurred in the relevant timescale. [215796]

Mr. Thomas: Since 2003, UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) involvement in acquisitions by foreign owned companies equates to 8.6 per cent. of the total of such investments recorded by UKTI.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on foreign investment in the UK, if he will place in the Library the data referred to in the answer. [216069]

Mr. Thomas: I have arranged for a list of all quotable UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) involved successes in 2006-07 to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Each year a number of companies request that their investment details are not made public. The listing provided therefore only includes those investments where companies have agreed that their details can be made public or where their investment details are already in the public domain.

Grants: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants were made by his Department and its predecessor to the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997; and for how much in each case. [214489]

Mr. Thomas: In April 2007 the Department paid the London borough of Bexley a resource (revenue) grant of £163,600 under Section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003. This payment was in respect of the costs of treating and disposing of household hazardous waste electrical and electronic equipment during the period 1 June 2006 to 30 June 2007.

Grants were also paid between 2005-06 and 2007-08 in respect of project management and development of the retail enforcement pilot. The amounts were: £28,700 in 2005-06; £146,700 in 2006-07, and £72,900 in 2007-08.

The Department, under its current responsibilities following machinery of Government changes last year, has not made available any other direct funding to the London borough of Bexley since 1998. Financial records are retained for 10 years, therefore no data is available for the 1997-98 financial year.

This excludes any payments that may have been made direct to the London borough of Bexley by any of BERR's sponsored agencies, non-departmental or other public bodies, specific data for which could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons former miners and their families in Scotland are entitled to claim damages under the miners compensation scheme from an earlier period than their counterparts in England and Wales. [209887]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The reason why former miners and their families in Scotland are entitled to claim damages under the coal health compensation schemes earlier than England and Wales is because the Limitation Act 1980 does not apply in Scotland and therefore no limitation date was established. The date of guilty knowledge in England and Wales were set by the High Court.

In order to get the Scottish solicitors to sign up to a claims handling agreement, which in the most part would mirror the agreement in England and Wales, the Department reached a number of compromises with the Scottish solicitors. On the Department's part we agreed to pay bereavement awards to all widows who fulfilled the criteria set in England and Wales (under Scottish law they would not all have received this); and for their part the Scottish solicitors agreed to impose a limitation date of 1949 (rather than it being open-ended).

National Emergency Plan for Fuel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether discussions took place in his Department over whether to activate the National Emergency Plan for Fuel during the recent strike by tanker drivers. [213461]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F) identifies how the resources of the downstream oil industry and the Government can be utilised to manage any significant disruption to oil supplies in the UK market. It enables the Government to select and use one or more appropriate emergency response tools to manage any significant disruption. During the recent strike by tanker drivers working for Hoyer-UK and Suckling Transport, a joint response team was set up in my Department, demand calming measures were encouraged, and the memorandum of understanding with industry was activated to provide a jointly managed approach to maintaining the continuity of fuel supply. The need to use other emergency response tools within the NEP-F was kept under regular review.

Nuclear Power Stations: Dounreay

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the public purse has been of maintaining the Dounreay nuclear facility over the last 30 years; under what budget headings such expenditure has been incurred; and what financial provision has been made for decommissioning the nuclear facility over that period. [214011]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: Since 2000, the actual cost of maintaining Dounreay has been as follows:

	£ million
2000-01	128.2
2001-02	139.4
2002-03	149.6
2003-04	137.7
2004-05	159.3
2005-06	146.5
2006-07	146.8
2007-08	137.5

These numbers are gross costs and do not include any income generated by the site.

Prior to 2000 the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority did not record costs on a site basis and there are, therefore, no detailed figures on the historical cost of Dounreay.

The main budget headings which Dounreay has used since 2003 are those defined by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and the Liabilities Management Unit (LMU) prior to that:

New Construction Projects;

Decommissioning and Termination;

Waste and Nuclear Material Management;

Site Support;

Support Services (those services required, but not necessarily based on the site);

Stakeholder Support (such as communications).

Prior to 2003, the costs would have been separated on a similar basis, but with different titles. For example, Decommissioning and waste management were joined together. These definitions would have changed on a yearly basis.

Since the creation of the NDA, the financial provision for decommissioning the Dounreay site has been set out in the NDA's annual plans and annual report and accounts, available on their website at

www.nda.gov.uk.

Oil

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* UK and *(b)* global demand and supply of oil; and if he will make a statement. [215545]

Malcolm Wicks: The provisional figures for 2007 published by BERR indicate that UK production of crude oil and natural gas liquids (NGL) was 1.66 million barrels per day and UK demand for oil products was 1.68 million barrels per day.

The latest monthly oil market report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates 2007 world crude oil supply, including NGLs, at 85.5 million barrels per day and world oil demand at 86 million barrels per day.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent *(a)* cross-departmental and *(b)* international discussions his Department has had on the global production and supply of oil; and if he will make a statement. [215549]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR works very closely on a daily basis with other Government Departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Treasury, Department for International Development and Department for Transport on issues relating to global oil markets.

BERR is very active in engaging our international partners on how to encourage further oil production and supply in the short and longer term. To this effect, I visited Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi last month to discuss these issues bilaterally. BERR has also had multilateral engagement on this issue through the Secretary of State's attendance at the G8 Energy Minister's meeting on 8 June and at the oil summit convened in Jeddah by Saudi Arabia on the 22 June.

Overseas Trade: Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations the Government have made to British companies operating in Burma to persuade them to withdraw from the country. [208463]

Mr. Thomas: We are unaware of any major UK-based company operating there. The Government were instrumental in persuading the last two major UK investors—BAT and Premier Oil—to withdraw from the country. Current trade levels are very low.

The UK Government discourage trade and investment with Burma. We offer no commercial services or support to UK companies wishing to trade with or invest in Burma. British companies who inquire about trade with Burma are informed of the grave political situation, the regime's record on human rights and the country's dire economic prospects.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the financial viability and sustainability of Post Office outreach services; [212899]

(2) what assessment he has made of the sustainability of the Post Office partner outreach business model. [212900]

Mr. McFadden: The Government consider that decisions about the provision of post office services including any outreach services are a matter for Post Office Ltd. and individual sub-postmasters, reflecting the needs and level of demand in local communities. We do not believe it is appropriate for Government to seek to intervene in matters which are best considered at local level.

However, we want Post Office Ltd. actively to engage with local communities, through a process of local consultation ahead of establishing outreach services, so that they can be tailored to individual circumstances and stand the best chance of acceptance and success.

Seals: Animal Products

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on discussions with the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission on the introduction of an EU-wide ban on the importation of seal products; and if he will make a statement. [216286]

Mr. Thomas: We expect the European Commission to announce shortly what measures it intends to propose concerning the trade in seal products.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of plans to introduce an EU-wide ban on the importation of seal products; and if he will make a statement. [216287]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have said that they would strongly support an EU ban on the importation of harp and hooded seal products. We expect the European Commission to announce shortly its conclusions on possible measures concerning the trade in seal products and an assessment will be made when any proposal is received.

Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants were made by his Department and its predecessor to *(a)* Tamworth borough council and *(b)* Staffordshire county council in each year since 1997; and for how much in each case. [215777]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department has no record of any payments to Tamworth borough council;

(b) Grants totalling £877,746.29 were paid to Staffordshire county council, from financial year 2002-03 onwards. Details by year are in the following table. Information prior to this is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*£*
2002-03	44,274.48
2003-04	69,258.46
2004-05	67,961.00
2005-06	25,000.00
2006-07	79,000.00
2007-08	592,252.35

Supermarkets: Farmers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to the appointment of an independent ombudsman to monitor relations between supermarkets and their suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [216363]

Mr. Thomas: We hope that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved by the Competition Commission (CC) in its discussions with the grocery retailers about the establishment of the ombudsman. Should this not prove possible after a reasonable period of time, the Government will consider what measures might appropriately address the issues identified by the CC.

Trade Unions: Membership

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what powers trades unions have to exclude individuals from trades union membership on the basis of their political affiliation or party political membership. [210857]

Mr. McFadden: Under section 174 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, it is unlawful for a trade union to expel or exclude individuals from its membership on the grounds of their political party membership.

UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what UK Trade and Investment's target for strategic interventions was for 2007; and how many were achieved. [216139]

Mr. Thomas: At the start of financial year 2007-08, UK Trade and Investment introduced new top-level annual targets covering high value foreign direct investment successes; helping businesses to exploit overseas business opportunities; and increasing the quantity of research and development in the UK through business internationalisation.

Figures for the year up to Q3 FY 2007-08 confirm:

> Against a target to improve the performance of at least 20,000 UK businesses, of which, at least 12,000 should be innovative: UKTI assisted 15,900, of which, 12,600 were innovative; and
>
> Against a target to increase the quantity of R and D activity in the UK so at least 1,000 businesses increase their R and D activity in the UK as a result of UKTI support: UKTI helped 2,799 UK businesses to increase R and D activity.

Latest figures for inward investment (published 3 July) show that, against an annual target to achieve at least 525 involved inward investment project successes, of which, at least 125 should be high value; UKTI exceeded its target with 549 projects, of which 182 were high value.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much timber and timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed forest law enforcement, government and trade partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213717]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's policy is that all timber and timber products are procured specifying the point of origin and must be from a sustainable source and certified as forestry stewardship certificate or similar.

On quantity and value, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 950W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which Government Departments the UK's regional conflict advisers based in Africa under the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool are drawn; and what the mandate and responsibilities of each is. [216313]

David Miliband: There are four regional conflict adviser (RCA) posts based in Africa: in Addis Ababa, covering the horn of Africa and the African Union; in Nairobi, covering Central and Eastern Africa; in Pretoria, covering Southern Africa; and in Abuja, covering West Africa. These posts are currently filled by staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (three) and the Department for International Development (one). All four RCAs work in support of the Africa Programme of the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and their role is to advise and report on conflict risk and conflict prevention, management and resolution issues in their region and to provide oversight, co-ordination and advisory support to regional and country programmes in the implementation of CPP project activity.

China: Christianity

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have raised the issue of the persecution of Chinese Christians with the Chinese authorities during the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [213908]

Meg Mann: We remain concerned that the prohibition of some religious groups and the legal restrictions and harassment of others undermines freedom of religious belief in China. We have repeatedly made clear that harassment of and restrictions upon religious groups is not in line with Article 18 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, which we continue to urge the Chinese to ratify. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised this during his visit to China in January 2008 and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised it when he visited China in February 2008. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised it with Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui in August 2007.

We also raised religious freedom at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing in January 2008. The EU did the same at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in Ljubljana on 15 May 2008.

China: Overseas Aid

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to cease funding for work in China after 2011; what assessment he has made of the need for development funding in China after the Sichuan earthquake; and if he will make a statement. [215859]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Development programme with China consists of two elements. Firstly, work in China to help China achieve the Millennium Development Goals in basic education, water supply and sanitation and combating HIV and AIDS and TB. Secondly, work with China to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals globally by sharing experience and lesson learning with respect to China's engagement in Africa and with its near neighbours; and on climate change, sustainable development and learning from China's experience on poverty reduction. The bilateral programme to China is expected to end in March 2011. We expect engagement with China on international development issues to continue beyond March 2011, but the modalities for this still need to be considered.

The UK has provided funds for the immediate relief effort in response to the earthquake in Sichuan. On 16 May, three days after the earthquake struck, we provided £1 million to the Chinese Association for NGO co-operation. The money was used to buy food, water, blankets and 2,400 tents. Between 22 and 30 May, four flights arrived in Chengdu from Dubai carrying a further 5,332 tents. The total value of the tents, including transport costs, was £1.2 million. On 18 June, we agreed a contribution of £350,000 to the International Labour Organisation for training to help survivors of the earthquake re-launch or start their own businesses for the first time. The programme aims to re-establish 1,000 businesses and start 700 new ones in the next year. The DFID total contribution to date is therefore £2.55 million.

We are currently considering establishing a facility to provide technical assistance for the reconstruction effort. It will have an initial ceiling of £1 million. The main focus of the expertise will be on areas where we already have a comparative advantage, such as health, education, water and sanitation, participatory, socially inclusive planning and community-based poverty reduction in remote villages. The facility is expected to be operational by mid-July.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement; [213696]

(2) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213739]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working to fully integrate environmental factors into the design and management of our new buildings and major refurbishment in the UK and overseas. For buildings in the UK we use the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and from 2005 we have been developing a bespoke version for projects overseas which we are trialling on three projects currently under construction. The FCO completed the following new builds and major refurbishment in the last three financial years:

	Financial year					
	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	UK	*Overseas*	*UK*	*Overseas*	*UK*	*Overseas*
New Build	0	1	0	4	1	5
Major Refurbishment	1	1	0	1	0	6

The two projects in the UK were part of a major refurbishment of part of the King Charles street building and jointly received a very good BREEAM rating. The National Audit Office subsequently increased this to excellent in a study for their report, "Building for the future: Sustainable construction and refurbishment on the Government estate".

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215178]

Meg Munn: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Co-ordination: Dept for International Development

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* parameters and *(b)* objectives are of the November 2006 FCO-DFID Shared Service Delivery plan; and if he will place a copy of the plan in the Library. [216306]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development Shared Services Delivery Plan aims to share services wherever it represents value for money and focuses on five workstreams: Human Resources; Co-location; Procurement; Information Systems; and a new Service Level Agreement.

I have instructed my officials to place a copy in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213409]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to relocating 450 posts under the Lyons relocation project by March 2010.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* his Department's strategic workforce plan of December 2007 and *(b)* the FCO High Level Change Plan. [216299]

David Miliband: I have instructed my officials to place the latest versions of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Strategic Workforce Plan (published in December 2007) and the High Level Change Plan (published in July 2008) in the Library of the House.

Egypt: Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age were (i) injured and (ii) killed in Egypt as a result of terrorist activity in each of the last 10 years; what discussions he has had with the Government of Egypt about improving security in Egypt for British tourists during the last 12 months; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [214052]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We express our sincere condolences to the families of the British citizens killed in Egypt and other countries due to terrorist activity. We regret that in 2004, a man and a woman—ages unknown—were injured as a result of terrorist activity. In 2005, six men—ages 14, 16, 17, 17, 28, 30—and five women—ages 16, 31, 43, 50, 70—were killed as a result of terrorist activity, and one man aged 22 and one woman, whose age is unknown, were injured. In 2006, three men—ages 24, 31 and 42—were injured as a result of terrorist activity. Between 1998 and 2003, and in 2007, there were no British nationals injured or killed as a result of terrorist activity in Egypt.

Our embassy in Cairo regularly discusses the safety and security of British nationals with the Egyptian authorities, including at ministerial level. We have worked together to provide training for those involved in protecting tourists and intend to continue to do so.

Eritrea: Djibouti

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent conflict on the Eritrea-Djiboti border; what assessment he has made of the effects of the conflict on the prospects for *(a)* peace in the Horn of Africa and *(b)* a durable settlement between Ethiopia and Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [214226]

Meg Munn: There has been fighting on the Djibouti/Eritrea border after an incursion of Eritrean forces into the disputed Djibouti border region. This has led to casualties on both sides. We supported the UN Security Council (UNSC) presidential statement of 12 June condemning Eritrea's military action and urging both sides to show maximum restraint.

On 24 June, the UNSC renewed its call to Eritrea and requested it to withdraw its troops from the front-line with Djibouti. The Security Council asked for a UN fact- finding mission to the disputed region.

We call on Djibouti and Eritrea to enter into a bilateral dialogue to resolve peacefully any outstanding issues and avoid escalating tension and further military action.

We remain concerned about security and stability in the Horn of Africa region. The clashes along the Djibouti-Eritrea border contribute to the instability in this region, but we have not seen any read across to the Ethiopia-Eritrea border situation.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on Eritrea: Ethiopia, to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks, what representations the Government have made to Ethiopia and Eritrea to agree to re-activate the work of the Military Co-ordination Commission; and if he will make a statement. [212908]

Meg Munn: The Military Co-ordination Commission (MCC) last met on 31 July 2006.

The meetings of the MCC ceased when the Government of Ethiopia said they would only participate if Eritrea withdrew its military forces from the Temporary Security Zone. The Government of Eritrea said they would continue with the MCC meetings once Ethiopia agreed to participate.

As a bilateral mechanism, established under the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, 18 June 2000, between Ethiopia and Eritrea, they both bear the responsibility to re-activate the work of the MCC. The Government are prepared to support any initiative which will assist the parties in doing this and resolving the border dispute peacefully.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 369W, which sets out the Government's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute.

European External Action Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Third Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2007-08, on Foreign Policy Aspects of the Lisbon Treaty HC120, paragraph 22, what reports on the development of the European External Action Service have been made to Parliament since 20 January 2008; and what steps he plans to take to inform Parliament of progress in discussions on the service. [210252]

David Miliband *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: My hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, Jim Murphy, wrote to the European Scrutiny Committee on 22 April about Treaty Implementation and I gave oral evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 11 June. In light of the Irish referendum result, the planned discussions on the External Action Service at the EU General Affairs Council and the European Council were cancelled. That was the right response to the outcome of the referendum in Ireland. No further work will be carried out, and the work has stopped in the UK until such a time as there is a new suggestion from the French Presidency or a way forward suggested by the Irish Government.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214875]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not currently maintain such records for its UK offices or overseas posts, and consequently, the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214876]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not currently maintain such records for its UK offices or overseas posts, and consequently, the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Wines

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of all guidance issued to Government departments by the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee on the purchase of wine in the last 12 months. [215141]

Meg Munn: The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW) offers advice to Government Hospitality, Protocol Directorate, on purchases for the Government cellar and maintenance of current stock. The GHACPW does not issue guidance to individual Government Departments. The GHACPW issues an annual report, copies of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Guinea-Bissau: EC External Relations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EU assistance is provided for the Guinea-Bissau security structure. [214165]

Meg Munn: A European Security and Defence Policy Mission in support of Security Sector Reform (SSR) is providing advice and assistance to help Guinea-Bissau implement its own National Security Sector Reform Strategy through drawing up implementation plans for the downsizing and restructuring of the security forces, identifying Guinea-Bissau's capacity building needs and facilitating the mobilisation and engagement of donors. The mission deployed on 16 June and will last for an initial period of up to 12 months.

A team of experts has deployed under the European Commission's (EC) instrument for stability to provide strategic SSR advice to the Defence Minister and the technical committee of the SSR process. The experts were deployed in October 2007 and will stay for 12 months.

The EC provided €19.5 million under the ninth European Development Fund (EDF) for SSR, rule of law and administrative reform. A potential €27 million has been allocated under the tenth EDF (2008-2013) for conflict prevention including SSR, administration reform and justice.

The EU is also currently developing a policy on situations of fragility. Guinea- Bissau is one of the pilot countries.

Iceland: Whales

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Iceland on the resumption of commercial whaling by Iceland. [214610]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 1 July 2008]*: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met the Icelandic Prime Minister on 24 April 2008 and during the meeting made clear the UK's disappointment and strength of feeling on this issue.

International Criminal Court

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether mechanisms exist under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court for the UK to refer a situation in a third country to the attention of the Court; and if he will make a statement. [215371]

David Miliband: Under article 14 of the Rome Statute, a State Party can refer to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for investigation, a situation in a third State in which one or more crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction appear to have been committed. The effect of article 13 of the Rome Statute is that such a referral can only be made where the third State is a party to the Rome Statute. The UN Security Council (UNSC), acting under chapter VII of the UN charter, can also refer a situation to the ICC Prosecutor. The UK has made no unilateral referrals, but we played a leading role in the UNSC's adoption of UNSC resolution 1593 (March 2005) which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Iran about the arrest of six Baha'is on 14 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [216593]

Dr. Howells: In addition to the EU statement of 14 May which expressed deep concern at the arrests of the Baha'i leadership in Iran, both the UK and the EU highlighted this situation at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 6 June and called for the Iranian Government to release them. I raised the issue with the Iranian ambassador to London soon after the arrests. We remain extremely worried by their on-going detention, the lack of access to legal representation and their families and the institutional persecution of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran more broadly. We will continue to stress our concerns about this and have recommended that the EU formally raises this issue once again in its next meeting with the Iranian authorities in Tehran.

Iraq: Entry Clearances

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider introducing visa issuing facilities at the UK consulate in Erbil in the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [214974]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Our embassies in Amman and Beirut have been designated as the visa-issuing posts for Iraqi nationals (although visit visa applications may be lodged at any UK visa-issuing post around the world). Given the current security situation, there is no prospect of expanding the limited visa service currently available in Iraq in the foreseeable future. We will, however, continue to keep the matter under review as the security situation develops.

Maldives: Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were awarded to citizens of the Maldives in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age of recipient. [216261]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There has been one Chevening scholar from the Maldives each year since 1997-98, except 2004-05 when there were none, and 2002-03 and 2006-07 when there were two each year. The distribution of all Chevening scholarships is given in the Chevening Programme Annual Reports. The reports for the years from 1998-99 to 2005-06 are available at:

http://www.chevening.com/about/reports/.

A breakdown by sex and age of recipient is not held centrally and to provide these details would incur a disproportionate cost.

Middle East: Administration of Justice

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the proportion of arrests in *(a)* the Palestinian occupied territories, *(b)* Israel, *(c)* Saudi Arabia and *(d)* Iran which are followed by a case investigation and court hearing. [213361]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information. In order to obtain the information we would need to contact the relevant Ministry of Interior or Government office of each country for the information. The information cannot be provided, except at disproportionate cost.

The UK believes that all trials should be conducted in accordance with international minimum standards.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct the British Embassy in Tel Aviv not to entertain leaders of settler communities in the West Bank at public expense. [214171]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: The Government's view on settlements is clear: all settlements are illegal under international law. Reports of recent settlement expansion are at odds with Israel's roadmap commitments—which call for a freeze on all settlement construction—and threaten negotiations on a two-state solution. As I made clear in an answer to the House on 24 June, the presence of settlers at the recent party at our embassy in Tel Aviv—celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's birthday—did not send out helpful signals in our efforts to hold Israel to its roadmap commitments on settlements.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), whether the human rights record of Israel in the occupied territories was considered in the discussions on the EU-Israel Association Council in the margins of the GAERC. [214432]

Dr. Howells: There were no discussions on the human rights record of Israel in the occupied territories during the EU-Israel Association Council.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the Steering Committee set up by the Annapolis Agreement of November 2007 has met; and if he will make a statement. [213459]

David Miliband: The work of the Steering Committee is ultimately a matter for Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but we understand that it has met regularly since November 2007. The Government continue to offer their strong support to both sides as they take discussions forward on all issues in the context of the Annapolis process.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215661]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Publications Purchasing Section has no record of any subscription to the *Morning Star* either in London or overseas.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received from the Pakistani authorities of the presence of British converts to Islam in areas of Peshawar province associated with militancy. [215432]

Dr. Howells: The threat from violent extremism in the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan has grown, despite more than 800 members of the Pakistani security forces having lost their lives in the struggle to maintain security. We are committed to helping the Government of Pakistan tackle this threat and have deepened our counter-terrorism co-operation accordingly.

We would not be able to comment on any personal information received about British nationals in Peshawar in accordance with our data protection obligations. We do, however, maintain close co-operation with the Pakistani authorities concerning the threat from violent extremism.

Palestinians: Overseas Students

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinian students with places to study in the UK who have been unable to obtain permission to leave Gaza in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [215287]

David Miliband: We are aware of nine students who have won places in British universities but cannot leave Gaza due to exit permit problems. The Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Commonwealth Office, Sir Peter Ricketts, raised this issue with the Israeli ambassador on 20 June and my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) raised it with Israeli Diaspora Minister Isaac Herzog recently. As this issue also affects a number of other EU member states, we have also made representations jointly to the Israeli authorities through the European Commission.

Palestinians: Police

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the Government have made to the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement. [215243]

David Miliband: The UK is a strong supporter of the EU's civil police training mission. The UK has provided £1.2 million for civil police development this year. With our support, the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories has refurbished Jericho police training centre; completed two women's police courses; begun to roll out public order training to 800 police; and delivered non-lethal equipment such as helmets. The UK is engaged in supporting the development of Palestinian security. At the Berlin conference on 24 June, the UK committed £2.7 million in 2008 and £4.5 million over the next three years to help these efforts.

South Africa: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the South African Government on instances of violence against foreigners in that country; and if he will make a statement. [214227]

Meg Munn: The Government, through our high commission in Pretoria, have shared our concerns about this violence with the South African authorities. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development condemned the violence on 5 June in a speech in South Africa during which he announced £500,000 funding for assistance to migrants in temporary shelters affected by the recent violence.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on progress towards the establishment of women's desks and community policing programmes in internally displaced persons' camps in Darfur. [213766]

Meg Munn: The UN estimates that around 50 per cent. of the planned women's desks have now been established. 66 community policing centres are operational and the UN hope that a further 10 will be upgraded or constructed by the end of the year.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of UNAMID's proposed 6,600 police officers have commenced operations in Darfur; and what assessment he has made of *(a)* the Police Commissioner's progress towards achieving a 24-hour patrolling schedule in internally displaced persons' camps in Darfur and *(b)* UNAMID's capacity to provide firewood, crop and other patrols outside internally displaced persons' camps in Darfur. [213764]

Meg Munn: As of 23 June, 1,680 police officers have deployed to Darfur. There is currently only one fully formed police unit (FPU) made up of 144 officers from Bangladesh. Further FPUs are needed before 24-hour patrols can begin in internally displaced persons' camps in Darfur.

The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur's capacity to provide firewood, crop and other patrols outside internally displaced persons' camps in Darfur has increased. On 22 June alone, there were 18 confidence building patrols, four escorts, and 21 villages patrolled.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the radio and satellite communications equipment provision of UNAMID units. [213765]

Meg Munn: The new communication network (Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT)) is still being deployed. We understand from the UN that only four locations—Shangil Tobaya, Sarif Umra, Sortoni and Mellit—are now without VSAT, but they have microwave links and so can communicate.

The Friends of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur forum in New York is assisting in the training and equipping of African troop contributing countries, including with communications equipment; the UK is supporting this effort by providing £4 million.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of refugee camps in Darfur where the UN-AU hybrid force does not have a presence; and if he will make a statement. [214147]

Meg Munn: There are about 81 internally displaced persons camps in Darfur. We understand that the UN-African Union joint peacekeeping mission currently visits about 66 camps and this figure is likely to rise as the mission deploys in full.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Government of Sudan's compliance with the Status of Forces Agreement for the UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [214148]

Meg Munn: We understand that the Government of Sudan have largely complied with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the UN, the African Union (AU) and the Government of Sudan on 9 February, which provides a legal framework for the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). However, UNAMID officials have raised concerns about intermittent restrictions on UNAMID's freedom of movement imposed by the Government of Sudan on security grounds and about local Government of Sudan officials failing to comply with SOFA provisions. In ministerial and official contacts with the Government of Sudan, we have pressed them to co-operate with UNAMID, including through full compliance with the SOFA.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure that the Government of Sudan comply with the provisions of the Abyei Protocol. [214170]

Meg Munn: The two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, signed a "Road Map for the Return of internally displaced persons and Implementation of Abyei Protocol" on 8 June. We are providing advice on arbitration and stand ready to provide further support to both parties to implement the road map.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government support proposals for a permanent UN military and civilian presence in the Abyei region of Sudan. [214199]

Meg Munn: The remit of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the UN agencies in Abyei covers military and security issues, for example support to the new Joint Integrated Unit, and civilian affairs such as reconstruction and development.

The National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Army agreed a road map on 8 June to resolve their differences over Abyei. The UK is working closely with the UN and other partners to support the parties in successfully implementing the road map. We secured a strengthened mandate for UNMIS in UN Security Council Resolution 1812, which calls on the parties to allow UNMIS unrestricted access and operations in Abyei.

We will support the UN presence in Abyei as long as they are mandated to operate there and have the support of the parties.

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much was paid by his Department to British citizens under the Aftercare Plan in each year since 2004; [208801]

(2) how many British citizens received help from his Department's Aftercare Plan in each year since 2004; [208802]

(3) what the *(a)* original budget and *(b)* actual financial out-turn was for his Department's Aftercare Plan in each year since 2004; [208803]

(4) what his Department's working estimate is of the cost of the Exceptional Measures for Victims of Terrorist Incidents Overseas scheme in *(a)* the 2008-09 financial year and *(b)* each of the next three financial years. [208805]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* We did not maintain central records for the provision of financial assistance by our posts within the Aftercare Plan. Reviewing individual case records to determine this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Given the indiscriminate nature of terrorism, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot determine in advance when, or how many people might be affected.

or what level of support might be required following a terrorist event. For this reason, we do not maintain a working estimate of likely costs. Finance is provided from a range of different budgets appropriate to the identified needs in particular circumstances.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research and analysis his Department carried out into the availability from commercial insurance companies of insurance against acts of terrorism before his decision to replace the Aftercare Plan with exceptional assistance measures; and if he will make a statement. [208804]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has regular discussions on the availability and scope of travel cover with the insurance industry through the Association of British Insurers.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens have been the victim of terrorist incidents overseas in each of the last seven years. [209380]

David Miliband: Since 2001, 190 British nationals have been killed and 156 injured because of terrorist actions overseas. These figures include both British and British dual-nationals. They do not include British nationals killed or injured while serving in the armed forces. These figures identify only those cases where victims have requested assistance, from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and we have linked them to a terrorist incident.

The FCO does not hold records by year relating to the number of British nationals killed or injured overseas as a result of terrorist action. Reviewing individual case records to determine this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Tony Blair

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the right hon. Tony Blair has performed any official activities for his Department since 27 June 2007 to which fees and expenses were attached. [215149]

Dr. Howells: The right hon. Tony Blair has not performed any official activities on to which fees and expenses were attached to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 27 June 2007.

Wines

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* average cost of wine, *(b)* cost and name of the most expensive wine bottle and *(c)* cost and name of the most expensive spirit bought for the Government wine cellar was in the last 12 months. [215046]

Meg Munn: Between June 2007 and May 2008 the average cost of wine purchased for the Government wine cellar was £15.28 per bottle. The most expensive wine purchased during this period was a red Bordeaux wine, Vieux Chateau Certan 2004. The most expensive spirit purchased was Johnny Walker Black Label whisky.

The costs for individual items of stock cannot be disclosed because of the commercially sensitive relationships with Government Hospitality's suppliers. Releasing these prices into the public domain may damage Government Hospitality's ability to achieve good value for money.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library an inventory of the stock in the Government wine cellar. [215140]

Meg Munn: In order to maintain the effective management of the Government wine cellar and to protect commercial interests of Government Hospitality and its suppliers, it will not be possible to place the wine stock list in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the market value of the Government wine cellar. [215155]

Meg Munn: The most recent estimate placed the market value of the cellar at approximately £2.4 million.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department in each of the last five years; and at what cost; [213737]

(2) how much timber and how many timber products were procured by his Department originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213738]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) requires its staff and contractors to procure timber from legal or sustainable sources in line with the requirements of Government timber procurement policy. From April 2009, in line with Government policy, the FCO will only procure timber which is legal and sustainable or timber licensed under the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade initiative, for use on its estate in the UK or in those European locations covered by a facilities management contract expected to come into effect in December. In all other countries the FCO will continue to source timber from legal and, where possible, sustainable sources.

I regret that it is not possible to supply information on the amount and cost of timber and timber products incurred in each of the last five years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* South African Development Community member states, *(b)* the Pan-African Parliament and (c) other organisations on the number of election monitors (i) required and (ii) likely to be in place for the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [213372]

David Miliband: The Southern African Development Community, the Pan African Parliament and the African Union all sent election observers to Zimbabwe. Despite Morgan Tsvangirai withdrawing from the second round it was important that they remained in country to witness the conditions, including the high levels of violence and intimidation.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have opposed the discussion of the political situation in Zimbabwe at the UN Security Council; and what reasons they have given for that opposition. [213457]

David Miliband: The UN Security Council (UNSC) discussed the political situation in Zimbabwe on 23 June, when it issued a presidential statement. This required agreement from all members. It is important that the UNSC continues to remain seized of the need to improve the political situation in Zimbabwe.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotments there are in each Lancashire local authority area; and how many should be provided for the population of each such area. [214795]

Mr. Iain Wright: "Planning Policy Guidance note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002 (PPG17)" and "Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing" provide a framework for the protection and provision of all types of open space including allotments. There is no fixed figure for how many allotments should be provided by local authorities per head of population. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area.

Information on the number of allotment sites is not held centrally by Department for Communities and Local Government. However information provided by local authorities in Lancashire advises the following number of allotments:

Local authority	*Number of allotment plots*
Blackburn with Darwen	398
Blackpool	370
Burnley	306
Chorley	105
Fylde	195
Hyndburn	530
Lancaster	582
Pendle	[1]115
Preston	510
Ribble Valley	[2]129
Rossendale	55
South Ribble	9
West Lancs	107
Wyre	46

[1] The figure is in respect of Colne in Pendle. All other allotments have fallen under the ownership and management of respective town and parish councils within Pendle. Allotments in Colne and Skipton are also to be transferred to their respective new town councils shortly.

[2] The figure is in respect of plots held by Clitheroe town council. All other sites have been transferred to various town and parish councils in the Ribble Valley area.

It should be noted that the management of sites differs between local authorities and in some cases the ownership, management and sometimes land has been transferred to parish and town councils and allotment associations.

Building Disaster Group

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Building Disaster Assessment Group; what reports the group has produced in the last 12 months; what projects it has managed in that time; and if she will make a statement. [216508]

Mr. Dhanda: No formal assessment of the effectiveness of the BDAG has been carried out by the Department. The work of the group, has, however, been instrumental in bringing about revisions to Building Regulations Approved Document "B", several British Standards, and Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) operational procedures and guidance. Work continues to inform a number of British Standards Reviews and amendments to FRS Generic Risk Assessments and operational practice and guidance.

The work also informed the evaluation procedures used by the Integrated Clothing Project Garment Trials Working Group. Beyond the FRS the work of the group was, and continues to be, used to inform other emergency service responders' equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and operational practice decisions. The BDAG work has also been used in setting up Home Office funded research programmes evaluating improved monitoring and cooling equipment for all emergency service responders. Using BDAG as a starting point at least one FRS has engaged with university researchers to carry out a programme to identify cooling and post-incident recovery best practice for FRS personnel.

Within the last 12 months three reports have been finalised which are in process of being published on the Department website. These reports cover two further studies on the physiological impact on firefighters of operational activities and a review of the incident ground communication provision of fire and rescue services. Draft reports have been received on the modelling of fires in under-ventilated compartments and it is intended that these reports be consolidated and published on the Department website once finalised. A further internal report has been prepared into an assessment of alternative methods of advancing hose from a bridgehead during high-rise firefighting. This report has been used to inform preparation of a revision to the generic risk assessment for high-rise firefighting.

The group continues to manage several projects:

FR11.24 a review of the provision of firefighting shafts using FRDI data:

FR11.25 the interaction between security measures, fire safety strategies and fire service intervention:

FR23.25 firefighting in under-ventilated compartments:

FR23.28 revised guidance on high-rise firefighting:

FR31.07 fire service communication needs within the built environment:

FR35.19 development of physiological performance criteria for firefighting:

FR35.21 the provision of human factors expertise.

Carbon Emissions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 981W, on carbon emissions, what changes have been made successfully to the definition of zero carbon with regard to domestic development. [216017]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have not made any changes to the definition of zero carbon for domestic development as set out in the Building a Greener Future Policy statement since that document was published. The Government have, however, issued revised technical guidance for the Code for Sustainable Homes to ensure that definitions used in the code align both with the policy statement and the definition used for stamp duty land tax relief. The Government have committed to keeping the definition under review and that is the purpose of the forthcoming consultation exercise.

Catering: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate have provided to local planning authorities on whether catering outlets can open in former retail premises without obtaining a change in use classification. [216014]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither the Department nor the Planning Inspectorate has issued any specific guidance on this matter. However, local planning authorities can refer to "ODPM Circular 03/2005—Changes of Use of Buildings and Land" for guidance in relation to the interpretation of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended.

In general, sandwich bars would be able to open in retail premises without the need for planning permission as both of these uses fall within Class Al: Shops of the Use Classes Order. Most other types of catering outlets, such as cafes, restaurants and hot food take-away premises fall into different use classes, and are likely to require planning permission to open in premises which have been in Class Al use.

It is for local planning authorities to determine in the first instance whether a material change of use has occurred or would occur, and also whether planning permission is required. These decisions need to be made on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances.

Community Development

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the risk management toolkit for asset transfer referred to on page 49 of the report entitled, "The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion", published in February 2008. [212932]

Mr. Dhanda: One of the recommendations of the Quirk review was the publication of a risk management toolkit for asset transfer, in order to advise local authorities on how to identify and manage the risks that are involved in asset transfer. The toolkit, "Managing risks in asset transfer: a guide" will be published before the summer recess.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the research on bridging activities that bring people from different backgrounds together, referred to in her letter of 6 October 2007 to the Chairman of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [217002]

Mr. Dhanda: "Predictors of community cohesion: multi-level modelling of the 2005 Citizenship Survey" was published in February 2008 and is available on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/predictorscohesion

Council Tax: Armed Forces

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether military service personnel are obliged to pay council tax *(a)* if they return from a tour of duty early due to injury and *(b)* while they are convalescing in hospital after incurring an injury on a tour of duty; and if she will make a statement. [216231]

John Healey: Council tax is a devolved matter. In England council tax liability falls on the resident of a dwelling which is considered to be, by the local authority, the resident's sole or main residence. Military service personnel who would otherwise be liable for council tax are not relieved of that liability by virtue of returning early from a tour of duty due to injury. Where any person is in hospital for such a long period that the hospital in which they are receiving care or treatment has become their sole or main residence, a dwelling that they have left empty is exempt from council tax if it was previously their sole or main residence.

Council Tax: Tax Yield

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of people paid council tax in each local authority in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [216063]

John Healey: The data are not held centrally.

Council Tax: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model is used to assist with council tax valuations of domestic properties in England. [216001]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1669W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* her Department have made of the number of dwellings in (i) England and (ii) Wales which are over-valued for council tax banding purposes. [216004]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W, which outlined the position in England. Council tax in Wales is a devolved matter.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by her Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if she will make a statement. [213693]

Mr. Dhanda: While the Department undertook various major refurbishment projects in excess of £0.5 million during this period, it was not considered appropriate to apply the BREEAM assessment method to these. This was due largely to projects consisting of repairs to and replacements of existing assets. Where opportunities existed, sustainability considerations were rigorously applied. For example, a project involving re-planning office floors and trialling flexible desking included the procurement of chairs manufactured from materials which were 47 per cent. recycled and 98 per cent. recyclable.

No new builds were completed during this period.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by her Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213724]

Mr. Dhanda: This Department has not completed any new builds in these periods.

The number of major refurbishments completed were:

	Number of projects
2005-06	2
2006-07	2
2007-08	2

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by her Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215173]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tonbridge Wells of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1034W, on Connect Public Affairs, for what reasons it was decided that such activities should be carried out by a commercial consultancy. [214993]

Mr. Dhanda: Following a review of its communications strategy in 2004, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit decided to seek proposals to manage a series of events ranging from small study tours to major national conferences. By procuring a single organisation to manage an integrated programme of events, NRU were able to ensure a consistent and joined-up approach that encouraged sharing of best practice across programmes.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on consultancy fees in 2007-08; and how much it expects to spend in 2008-09. [215320]

Mr. Dhanda: The information on consultancy fees for 2007-08 can be found in the Department's annual report for that year, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The figures for 2008-09 will be published in the 2009 report.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expert groups her Department has set up in each year since it was established. [213196]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual 'Public Bodies' publication. 'Public Bodies' also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of 'Public Bodies' dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Copies are also available in the Library.

The publication 'Department for Communities and Local Government's Public Bodies for 2007' contains the most recent information about public bodies sponsored by the Department, current as at 31 March 2007. This is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/612539.pdf.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of her Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214674]

Mr. Dhanda: At the latest audited date—31 March 2007—the value of computer systems in the Department's accounts was £21.4 million. The value of these systems was £42.4 million at the time of purchase. The Department compiles its accounts consistent with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual (FreM).

Departmental Property

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212875]

Mr. Dhanda: This Department has not made any new capital investments.

This Department and its predecessor spend on refurbishment is shown in the following tables:

CLG

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Open Space Works inc flexible desking pilot				142,999	2,625,851	4,883,632
Space planning reorganisation HMD, HR and FRD	136,663	443,826				
Allington Towers						
General refurbishment on occupation of building			114,969			
Replace ceiling tiles						112,568
Ashdown House						
Window cleaning cradle		385,483				
Disability access works (teapoints)		184,723				
Replace fire alarm hardware and software			104,571	121,301		
Disability access works (lifts)				134,157		
Machinery of Government reorganisation					151,708	
Eland House						
Additional conference rooms	266,930					
Space Planning Reorganisation 6th/7th floors	977,565					
Atria Improvements		431,516				
Replace fire alarm hardware		130,474				
Space planning/reorganisation 5th, 8th & 9th floors				1,753,180		
Disability access work (lifts)				296,311		
Replace fire alarm hardware and software				176,033	311,122	
Smoke duct work at Eland House					146,145	
Machinery of Government reorganisation					229,149	
Burlington House						
External works			369,120	2,407,249	583,858	
Total	1,381,158	1,576,022	588,660	5,031,230	4,047,833	4,996,200

Agencies

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Fire Service College						
Redevelopment of the breathing apparatus servicing area			296,000			
Development of the simulation suite				338,000		
Investment in IT infrastructure				65,000		
Street lighting and CCTV				247,000		
General site improvements				107,000		
Restaurant refurbishment					401,000	
General site improvements					121,000	
Refurbishment of kitchens					87,000	

	Agencies					
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
QEII CC						
Conference room and dining furniture	151,000					
Goods lift refurbishment	170,000					
Rewiring	29,000					
Refurbishment of floors 1 to 4		1,425,000				
Furniture		525,000	38,000	39,000	6,000	
Lift refurbishment		170,000				
Refurbishment of toilets			356,000			
Lift and air conditioning refurbishments			1,084,000			68,000
Air conditioning refurbishments				1,468,000	985,000	
Installation of disabled toilet facilities				41,000		
Installation of energy efficiency lighting in Churchill auditorium					223,000	
Theatre lighting refurbishment						320,000
Third floor cabling renewal						773,000
Fleming and Whittle seating capacity expansion						225,000
Total	350,000	2,120,000	1,774,000	2,305,000	1,823,000	1,386,000

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the standard retirement age in her Department is; and how many people in her Department and its predecessor worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214134]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government removed the mandatory retirement age for staff below the senior civil service grades with effect from 1 October 2006.

Prior to this the Department operated a mandatory retirement age of 65 and our records show that during the period April 2004-April 2006 no civil servants in grade 6 or below continued in post beyond 65 years of age.

The Cabinet Office has a civil service wide default retirement age of 65 for staff in the senior civil service grades. Our records show that during the period April 2004-April 2008 no staff in the senior civil service grades continued in post beyond 65 years of age.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures her Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214673]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department requires all inward secondees to complete a diversity monitoring form. Some secondments will follow a selection process which operates on merit. We are currently reviewing our interchange arrangements, with a particular focus on encouraging secondments from our stakeholder organisations, who are often more representative of the communities we serve.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much sick pay to staff in her Department and its predecessor cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211860]

Mr. Dhanda: The general rule is that employees on sick leave are entitled to be paid at their normal rate of pay for any periods of sick leave which in any 12-month period do not exceed six months, and at one half their normal rate of pay for any periods of sick leave which, in any 48-month period, exceed six but do not exceed 12 months.

Because of the way that data have been entered on our payroll system it is not possible to provide this information other than at a disproportionate cost.

Eco-towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W, on eco-towns, whether the Homes and Communities Agency will act as a local planning authority for any of the eco-town developments as part of its leadership role. [216016]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1201W. We would expect all applications for eco-towns to be considered as a normal planning application by the appropriate local planning authority unless called in by the Secretary of State.

We see the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) being able to take a leadership role in helping to deliver some of the eco-towns and playing a major role in supporting local authorities, and working with bidders to review and refine detailed proposals as they are developed. However, it is not envisaged that the HCA's leadership role will include acting as a local planning authority for any of the eco-town developments and there are currently no plans to designate any area and confer any planning functions upon the HCA.

Eco-towns: Public Participation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's YouGov poll on eco-towns, how many people were questioned; how those questioned were selected; where those questioned lived; what questions they were asked; and from which socio-economic groups they were drawn. [216196]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 3 July 2008]*: With reference to the Department's recent YouGov poll on eco-towns, I can confirm:

1. The poll is based on a sample of 1,693 respondents

2. Respondents volunteered to answer a range of questions, including those about eco-towns, through the YouGov online panel

3. The respondent sample was created to be broadly representative of geographic communities across England

4. Respondents were asked the following questions:

Q1. Which of the following terms/expressions have you seen or heard of? carbon footprint, biodegradable, affordable housing, sustainable development, Eco-towns, zero-carbon, Act On CO$_2$

Q2. How much do you know about eco-towns?

Q3. To what extent do you support the development of eco-towns in England? To what extent do you support the development an eco-town within five miles of your home?

Q4. If you were to consider moving home, to what extent would the energy efficiency and the environmental impact of properties influence your decision?

Q5. And to what extent do you feel there is affordable housing within five miles of your home (e.g. affordable housing for first-time buyers, families and the retired, including social housing and private housing etc)?

5. The respondent sample was created to be broadly representative of socio-economic groups across England.

Empty Property

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance she is providing to help local housing authorities to purchase suitable empty properties on the housing market to house people who are homeless or on housing waiting lists. [216233]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding is not being targeted directly at local authorities to enable them to purchase empty properties. In the current market the Housing Corporation is facilitating registered social landlords to purchase homes from developers and we have earmarked £200 million to fund this. Social homes provided through this route will help meet housing needs within local authority areas.

In April 2007, Communities and Local Government and GLA provided £30 million for the Settled Homes Initiative which will enable six schemes in London to purchase around 900 empty homes and convert them over time into quality settled social housing.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the software for producing display energy certificates assessments has been finalised. [216011]

Caroline Flint: Yes. Display energy certificates are being lodged on public sector buildings.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for display energy certificates to be compulsory for buildings. [216025]

Caroline Flint: Public sector buildings are required to have a display energy certificate by 1 October 2008.

European Charter of Regional Self-Government

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in discussions on a European charter for regional self-government. [215433]

John Healey: The Council of Europe's (CoE) Conference of Ministers responsible for local and regional government, at its 2005 Budapest meeting, recognised that the then proposed Charter for Regional Self-Government did not have the degree of political support necessary for adoption.

I am aware that CoE's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities at its May 2008 meeting recommended a draft Charter of Regional Democracy to the CoE's Committee of Ministers who are now considering their response. The United Kingdom Government do not support such a charter, nor do they believe it would be right to recognise it in an international legally binding convention.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 17W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much her Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fair Trade products. [211520]

Mr. Dhanda: Expenditure on refreshments for departmental meetings and engagements held at CLG's HQ offices are as follows:

	Expenditure on refreshments (£)
2005-06	360,596.34
2006-07	399,176.31
2007-08	381,843.57

Expenditure on Fairtrade products is not separately identified from non-Fairtrade products and therefore the percentage totals spent on Fairtrade products is not available.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to monitor the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* timeliness of the implementation of Fire and Rescue Services' Integrated Risk Management Plans; and if she will make a statement. [216316]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities.

The Audit Commission has responsibility for monitoring and assessing the performance of the fire and rescue service in meeting both the needs of local communities and national performance expectations set out in the National Framework.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 541-42W, on fire services, whether fire and rescue authorities will be liable for cost over-runs arising after the cut-over to the regional fire control centres. [212720]

Mr. Dhanda: Government are committed to meeting the costs incurred by the Fire Service in making preparations for cut-over to FiReControl. They have also undertaken to put in place arrangements to ensure that no region will incur costs over and above those of running the existing control rooms once the Fire Control network goes live. Details of the arrangements are set out in the Communities and Local Government Business Case Part 1 that I have placed in the House Library which includes a regional case for each region.

A copy of the full Business Case will be placed in the Library later this summer.

Flood Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether large-scale flood plain management projects will be dealt with by the Infrastructure Planning Commission, with particular reference to projects proposed in the Llandrinio area of the Marches. [215388]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my response to him during Third Reading of the Planning Bill on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 453. Flood plain management projects will not be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the take-up rates of home condition reports as part of the voluntary element of home information packs. [213922]

Caroline Flint: We are considering home condition reports, including their rate of take-up, as part of the work of our Stakeholder Panel to improve the home buying and selling process.

Housing Associations: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements her Department has put in place to ensure that housing associations are able to provide urgent alternative accommodation to tenants in exceptional or life-threatening circumstances; and what steps she may take in respect of a housing association which persistently does not offer such alternative accommodation to its tenants. [215269]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing associations have a statutory duty to assist local authorities in meeting housing need and to provide good quality, responsive services; these are requirements of the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code and guidance. The Regulatory Code expects associations to be responsive to the individual characteristics and circumstances of residents and provide vulnerable and marginalised residents with appropriate responsive housing services. Where associations fail to meet these requirements, the Housing Corporation has powers to take a range of actions. These may include reassessing an association's risk rating, which could have an impact on its relationships with stakeholders, including local authorities and lenders. If an association is a grant recipient, its fitness to develop might also be reviewed.

Associations are actively encouraged to sign up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management and to be active participants in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, to ensure that victims and witnesses of crime, and other vulnerable residents, receive the support they need.

Most social landlords are now members of choice based lettings (CBL) schemes. CBL schemes work to deliver good outcomes for vulnerable tenants, for example by giving priority to those with an urgent need to move. Outcomes in CBL schemes are transparent, so that delivery performance for vulnerable groups can be benchmarked. The Audit Commission also looks at delivery for victims of crime and nuisance, as part of housing management inspections.

The Housing and Regeneration Bill, currently in the other place, establishes a new Tenant Services Authority, with tenants at the heart of its remit. The authority will have significant new powers, to ensure that landlords who fail to deliver a good service to their tenants are dealt with in an effective and proportionate matter.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the downturn in the housing market on demand for each of the three Homebuy products. [216006]

Caroline Flint: In the current market conditions it remains very difficult for first-time buyers to afford to purchase a property on the open market, and the role of Government schemes in helping people get a foot on the property ladder is more relevant than ever.

The Government's Low Cost Home Ownership scheme 'HomeBuy' which is based on equity sharing has helped some 35,000 people over the two years 2006-08. The range of products available under the scheme have helped to make home ownership affordable to first-time buyers, and enabled purchasers to get a foot on the property ladder.

From 1 April 2008 we have made two new equity loan products available under the Open Market HomeBuy scheme. They offer first-time buyers an affordable entry point into home ownership. Indications are that interest in these products remains high, as over 7,000 applications have been received for the new shared equity loan products since their launch.

In addition, the Housing Corporation continues to encourage RSLs to bid for New Build HomeBuy schemes in order to offer purchasers the opportunity to enter into home ownership with shares from as little as 25 per cent.

We continue to keep the HomeBuy products and their delivery under careful review to ensure that they offer value for money and are suitable for purchasers in the current market.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government why *(a)* LPS or PAS standard products and *(b)* the Secure by Design accreditation are no longer elements of the Code for Sustainable Homes or its predecessor standard. [216000]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secured by Design standard is incorporated into the Code for Sustainable Homes in the security section of the management component.

The Secured by Design standard does, in turn, refer to LPS and PAS security standards as appropriate.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings were built on brownfield land in the Thames Gateway area in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [216812]

Caroline Flint: There is currently no information on how many homes were built on brownfield land in the Thames Gateway in 2007. This information is not yet available at a regional level due to the robustness of the Land Use Change Statistics data which are used to calculate the percentage of dwellings on brownfield land.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to determine the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme Grant 2008. [216186]

John Healey: I made a written ministerial statement, announcing payments under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) scheme, on 26 June. The basis on which these payments were calculated is set out in a technical note which I published on 2 April.

The statement can be viewed on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/statement080626.pdf

and the technical note at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/technote0708.pdf

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what ways local authorities are compensated for an increased population due to inward migration. [216026]

Mr. Dhanda: The distribution of formula grant to local authorities takes into account measures of population, as well as other socio-economic factors. These measures of population take account of both inward and outward migration.

In some areas the rate and scale of change will have an impact on local communities and services. My Department has recently published "Managing the Impacts of Migration: A Cross-Government Approach" which sets out the Government's support for local authorities and their partners. This includes introducing a new Transitional Impacts of Migration Fund to build capacity in local service providers and support innovative projects from 2009-10. My Department is also providing £50 million over the next three years to support community cohesion including tackling particular areas of tension, providing positive activities for young people, and supporting local cohesion projects.

Local Government: Manpower

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by each local authority in England on the most recent date for which figures are available. [215436]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed by each local authority in England on the most recent date for which figures are available. (215436)

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, including Local Authorities in England and Wales, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey.

The results of this survey are published in aggregate as part of the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest published statistics are for March 2008.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0608.pdf

The published statistics provide totals for the UK by sector classification, industry and Civil Service department. Statistics are not available for individual Local Authorities.

I am sorry I cannot be of more assistance on this occasion.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 977W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what property attributes or datasets are used to quantify a dwellings sublocation for the purpose of council tax valuations in the automated valuation model. [215997]

John Healey: Sub-location, as applied in non-domestic rating, is not used by the Valuation Office Agency in respect of council tax.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much revenue has been accrued in car park charges in each local authority in each of the last five years. [216582]

Mr. Dhanda: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the total income from off-street parking reported by each local authority in England in the last three years.

Aggregate information for England is published in editions of Local Government Financial Statistics and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Total income from off-street parking is defined as the sales, fees and charges and other income from the operation and maintenance of all car parks. The majority of this income is from car park charges.

Information on off-street parking for years prior to 2004-05 is not held centrally.

Parking: Tickets

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has given local authorities on the design specifications of car parking ticket machines, with particular reference to the provision of change. [216581]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The design of car parking ticket machines is for local authorities and their suppliers to determine. There are several British and European standards for this sort of equipment that local authorities may refer to when deciding what machines to use. The Department for Transport has not issued any further advice on the subject.

Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning aid is available only to *(a)* groups and *(b)* individuals. [216397]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning aid provides free, independent planning advice to individuals and community groups including small charities, voluntary groups and tenants' organisations.

Planning aid also assists social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses, but does not normally provide planning advice to businesses which seek to make a profit.

Poverty

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have a public service agreement stretch target relating to *(a)* fuel poverty, *(b)* pensioner poverty and *(c)* child poverty; and what the terms of the stretch target is in each case. [215547]

John Healey: Local authorities agreed stretch targets as part of stand-alone local public service agreements (LPSA) and the first three rounds of local area agreements (LAA).

The text of all LPSAs are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/localareaagreements/localpublicservice/secondgeneration/finalagreements/

The text of the first three rounds of LAAs is available on the Improvement and Development Agency for local government's website at:

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=1174198

Property Development: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of dwellings under the Government's plans for *(a)* growth areas and *(b)* designated new development sites will be located within an area of (i) medium and (ii) significant flood risk. [216005]

Caroline Flint: Government do not set the local spatial location of housing development. This is set by local authorities through their local development frameworks as part of regional and local planning processes. It is for local authorities to determine issues in relation to development in areas of flood risk, advised by the Environment Agency. PPS25, planning policy for development and flood risk, provides a strong and strategic framework for planning authorities to avoid and manage flood risk to new development.

In addition, for growth areas, growth points and eco-towns my Department works closely with the Environment Agency to minimise the risk of large-scale development occurring in areas of significant flood risk.

Property: Valuation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic or composite properties in England have an entry on the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model database; and how many have one or more photographs recorded on the digital photography application. [216007]

John Healey: The number of domestic, including composite, properties in England with a live council tax band entry in the Valuation Office Agency's central database was 22,539,701 as at 8 June 2008. Of these, 803,167 had one or more digital photographs associated with them. The Agency's central database stores the data that feed into its automated valuation modelling.

Public Places: Lighting

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish an annex to Planning Policy Statement 23 in respect of lighting in public places. [215970]

Mr. Iain Wright: We currently have no plans to publish an annex to Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control to cover light pollution.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the local education authority settlement in Devon was per pupil in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; and what it will be in 2008-09. [203696]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows:

(a) and *(b)* (i) The revenue funding figures per pupil in 2005-06 in cash terms for Devon local authority are as follows:

	Primary (aged 3-10)	*Secondary (aged 11-15)*
Devon	3,590	4,320

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with 2005-06 figures quoted above because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2005-06 figures quoted in the first table are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through CLG's (formerly DCLG) Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06—this is the basis for the 2005-06 baseline figure quoted as follows; as aforementioned this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding a primary/secondary split is not available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 19 and are in cash terms.

(a) and *(b)* (ii) & (iii) The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2008- 09 allocated to Devon local authority are provided in the following table:

	Devon
2005-06 DSG plus grants(baseline)	3,630
2006-07 DSG plus grants	3,860
2007-08 DSG plus grants	4,120
2008-09 DSG plus grants	4,270

Recreation Spaces: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of expenditure under the auspices of the Thames Gateway Parklands programme in the current financial year *(a)* by project and *(b)* by local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [216806]

Caroline Flint: The three sub-regional Thames Gateway Green Grid Partnerships have been invited to submit business plans by the 18 July to Communities and Local Government for projects which they would like to receive funding for from the Parklands budget of £35 million. Until we receive completed business plans, we will not have not have a clear picture of exactly how the funding will be spent. Allocations will be announced in the autumn.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of rough sleepers is, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group. [215802]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2007 estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England showed 498 people sleeping rough on any single night—a 73 per cent. reduction on the 1998 baseline. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified.

We do not hold national data on the proportion of rough sleepers who are male or female or their age group. However, there is specific data for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system which is separate to our estimate provided by the rough sleeping count. In 2007-08, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, CHAIN records show around 87 per cent. of rough sleepers to be male and 13 per cent. to be female. The breakdown by age is as follows:

	Percentage
Under 18 years	0
18-25 years	7
26-35 years	28
36-45 years	34
46-55 years	19
Over 55 years	11

Social Security Benefits

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation took place prior to taking the decision to limit payment of benefits to three years under the recently laid Ill Health Amendment Regulations. [215685]

Mr. Dhanda: As required by section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972, a statutory consultation took place from 21 November 2007 to 12 January 2008 with interested parties in England and Wales on draft proposals to amend the Local Government Pension Scheme. There were also extensive discussions with stakeholders concerning the development of the new ill health provisions prior to and beyond the consultation period. The Local Government (Amendment) Regulations 2008, including the terms for new ill health benefits, took effect from 1 April 2008.

Squatting: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's library holds a copy of the Squatters Handbook produced by the Advisory Service for Squatters. [216010]

Mr. Dhanda: The Communities and Local Government Library does not hold a copy of the handbook.

Valuation Office: Databases

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1086W, on Valuation Office: databases, if she will list each of the property attributes that are being collected from the digitisation process. [216021]

John Healey: The purpose of the project in question is to produce scanned images of existing hard-copy records, not to collect property attributes.

Wood

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213722]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much timber and timber products were procured by her Department and its predecessors originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed FLEGT partner in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [213723]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information centrally and would only be able to gather it at disproportionate cost. However, the Department actively seeks to buy all wood and wood products (including furniture) from legal and sustainable sources. The Department's Sustainable Operations Policy includes the following clauses:

We will ensure that all wood is either reclaimed, recycled or obtained from legally harvested trees and from sustainably managed forests where possible. From April 2009, we will also ensure that only timber and timber products originating either from independently verified legal and sustainable or from a licensed Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partner will be used on the estate. The appropriate documentation will be requested from partners to confirm this.

We will follow guidance as applicable from the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) procurement website, operated by ProForest. We will also put procedures in place to monitor timber procurement policies and exchange information and examples of best practice with other government departments and agencies.

This policy has also been circulated for adoption and compliance to the Department's Executive agencies.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 July 2008

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cervical Cancer: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* the west midlands in each of the last five years. [215769]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many women have been diagnosed with cervical cancer in (a) Tamworth and (b) the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [215769]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for female patients diagnosed with cervical cancer for the years 2001 to 2005 for a) Tamworth local authority and b) West Midlands government office region are given in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cervical cancer[1], females, Tamworth local authority and West Midlands government office region, 2001-2005

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Tamworth	5	5	8	6	2
West Midlands	309	264	263	264	240

[1] Cervical cancer is defined by code C53 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Death: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths of children there have been in each of the last five years, broken down by cause and ranked by frequency of cause. [216377]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of children there have been in each of the last five years, broken down by cause and ranked by frequency of cause. (216377)

The table attached provides the number of deaths of children aged under 16 years by cause, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available). The figures are ranked by the overall frequency of each cause across the period.

Table 1. Deaths of children aged under 16 years,[1] by underlying cause:[2] England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[3]

Cause	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Deaths 2002-06*
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	382	366	338	376	368	1830
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	256	238	259	263	231	1247
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	205	199	220	194	159	977
Land transport accidents	169	157	158	153	143	780
Malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	121	101	80	69	86	457
Malignant neoplasm of brain	82	90	82	79	88	421
Meningitis	80	106	70	78	54	388
Influenza and pneumonia	70	72	58	78	70	348
Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes	62	68	56	71	84	341
Accidental threats to breathing	54	62	49	53	49	267
Septicaemia	46	50	63	43	47	249
Epilepsy and status epilepticus	46	48	48	44	42	228
Systemic atrophies primarily affecting the central nervous system	36	34	32	39	38	179
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	34	30	43	29	41	177
Cardiomyopathy	24	42	23	34	45	168
Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent	35	38	27	32	25	157
Cerebrovascular diseases	31	28	27	35	30	151
Accidental drowning and submersion	32	36	17	32	26	143
Benign neoplasms, in situ and uncertain behaviour	31	19	28	31	28	137
Homicide and probable homicide	27	29	27	25	27	135
Malignant neoplasms of bone and articular cartilage	26	28	31	18	19	122
Acute respiratory diseases other than influenza and pneumonia	24	15	33	17	21	110
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	20	19	19	11	18	87
Appendicitis, hernia and intestinal obstruction	15	20	15	8	15	73
Accidental falls	13	18	10	14	17	72
Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation	18	13	13	10	16	70
Cirrhosis and other diseases of liver	12	9	19	16	10	66
Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except renal pelvis	4	19	13	12	11	59
Diseases of the urinary system	9	13	11	9	12	54
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	6	14	14	10	10	54

Table 1: Deaths of children aged under 16 years[2] by underlying cause[1], England and Wales[3], 2002 to 2006

Cause	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Deaths 2002-06
Pulmonary oedema and other intestinal pulmonary diseases	8	11	8	7	12	46
Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use	19	6	7	5	3	40
Vaccine-preventable diseases	6	3	12	8	9	38
Accidental poisoning	4	5	7	8	7	31
Intestinal infectious diseases	1	5	6	9	4	25
Malignant neoplasm of liver and intraheptic bile ducts	4	8	7	3	3	25
Cardiac arrhythmias	3	3	6	4	5	21
Ischaemic heart diseases	3	4	2	5	6	20
Diabetes	4	3	5	5	1	18
Disorders of fluid, electrolyte and acid-based balance (dehydration)	4	7	2	0	2	15
Tuberculosis	1	1	4	5	3	14
Non-rheumatic valve disorders	1	2	3	5	3	14
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	3	4	3	1	3	14
Cardiac arrest	2	0	3	3	2	10
Malnutrition and nutritional anaemias	1	2	1	0	5	9
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	1	3	1	1	2	8
Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	0	1	1	2	2	6
Melanoma and other malignant neoplasms of skin	3	1	2	0	0	6
Malignant neoplasm of bladder	0	0	1	2	1	4
Respiratory failure	0	0	2	0	1	3
Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung	1	0	1	0	1	3
Vector-borne diseases and rabies	1	0	1	1	0	3
Malignant neoplasm of ovary	1	1	0	0	0	2
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	0	0	0	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	0	0	0	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm of gallbladder and other parts of biliary tract	1	0	0	0	0	1
Non-intentional firearm discharge	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other	544	563	518	469	562	2,656
Total	2,587	2,614	2,486	2,427	2,468	12,582

[1] Selected using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code groups based on a list published in 2005: Griffiths C, Rooney C and Brock A (2005) Leading causes of death in England and Wales — how should we group causes? Health Statistics Quarterly 28, p 6-17.

[2] For the purposes of mortality statistics, children are defined as persons under the age of 16. Figures exclude deaths at ages under 28 days.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Prostate Cancer

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many men died from prostate cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [216756]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many men died from prostate cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. (216756)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death in *(a)* Lancashire county, and *(b)* England from 2004 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], Lancashire county and England, 2004-2006[3]

			Deaths (males)
	2004	2005	2006
Lancashire	167	189	175
England[2]	8,531	8,492	8,506

[1] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

Death: Weather

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people resident in Tamworth Borough Council area over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [215768]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in Tamworth Borough Council area over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 2004. (215768)

The table attached provides the number of deaths in winter (the months December to March inclusive) of people resident in Tamworth local authority district over the age of 65, for the years 2003/04 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

Table 1: Deaths in winter of persons over the age of 65[1], Tamworth district[2], 2003/04 to 2005/06

Winter	Deaths
2003-04	146
2004-05	161
2005-06	170

[1] Deaths in winter were defined as those occurring in December of one year, plus those occurring in January to March of the following year.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2008 for all years.

Employment: Mothers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many mothers are in employment. [215787]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many mothers are in employment. (215787)

Estimates are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets. In the period April-June 2007, there were 4.8 million women with dependent children in employment.

The figure has not been adjusted for women with unknown economic activity status. It includes biological mothers, step-mothers and adoptive mothers with dependent children that live in the same household as them. Dependent children are children aged under 16 and those aged 16 to 18 who have never married and are in full-time education. Foster mothers, women with non-dependent children, and those whose children live in a separate household are not included.

There are currently no annual household datasets available. The figure given is or the April-June quarter, to be consistent with statistics published in the 'Work and worklessness among household First Release' (see web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf)

The household datasets are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the main quarterly LFS microdatasets.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Food: Prices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of changes in the average retail price of *(a)* bread, *(b)* butter, *(c)* milk, *(d)* eggs and *(e)* flour, since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [216149]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made of changes in the average retail price of a) bread, b) butter, c) milk, d) eggs and e) flour since June 2007. (216149)

These data can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtimezone.asp

By selecting 'Consumer Price Indices' and then '3.1: RPI average retail prices of selected items' the historic average retail prices for each of the above items can be viewed

Lone Parents: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* London. [216226]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford, (b) the London Borough of Bexley and (c) London. (216226)

The number of lone parent families in the UK with children under 16 can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The table below shows 2007 estimates for the London Borough of Bexley and London. Estimates cannot be provided for the Parliamentary Constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford because the number of lone parents sampled in this area was too small.

Number of lone parent families with children under 16

	Number (Thousand)
London Borough of Bexley	6
London	268

Source:
LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted

Personal Income

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men earned below the lower earnings limit in each of the last five years. [216355]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) women and (b) men earned below the lower earnings limit in each year of the last five years. (216355)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category. Estimates are for single jobs and not for total employment earnings.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

I attach a table showing the percentage of UK employees earning below the lower earnings limit for the years 2003-2007.

Employee jobs[1] earning below the lower earnings limit, United Kingdom

		All employees (percentage)			*Full-time employees (percentage)*			*Part-time employees (percentage)*		
	Lower Earnings Limit (£ per week)	*All*	*Male*	*Female*	*All*	*Male*	*Female*	*All*	*Male*	*Female*
2003	77	6	3	10	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	25	31	24
2004	79	6	3	9	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	23	27	23

Employee jobs[1] earning below the lower earnings limit, United Kingdom

	Lower Earnings Limit (£ per week)	All employees (percentage)			Full-time employees[1] (percentage)			Part-time employees (percentage)		
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
2005	82	7	3	11	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	26	29	25
2006	84	7	3	10	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	25	28	24
2007	87	7	3	10	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	24	27	24

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [216757]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with prostate cancer in (a) Lancashire and (b) England in each of the last three years [216757]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of prostate cancer are for the year 2005. Figures requested are given in the table below.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1] registered in Lancashire county and England, 2003 to 2005

	Lancashire	England
2003	724	28,074
2004	821	30,320
2005	874	28,886

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many men were given chemotherapy treatment for prostate cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [216754]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men were given chemotherapy treatment for prostate cancer in (a) Lancashire and (b) England in each of the last three years [216754].

The latest year for which data are available is 2005. The table below shows, for 2003-2005, the number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer receiving chemotherapy treatment. The national cancer registration system has chemotherapy treatment recorded for 4.3 per cent of prostate patients in Lancashire county compared to 2.9 per cent in England [illegible] the period 2003-05. In 45 per cent of prostate cancer cases in the national cancer registry database for 2003-05, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having had no treatment.

Newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer receiving chemotherapy treatment[1] in Lancashire county and England, 2003-05

	Lancashire	England
2003	10	411
2004	72	1,456
2005	22	980

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Cancer registration data for this period are probably not sufficiently robust to accurately identify small differences in non-surgical treatment.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Prostate Cancer: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [215770]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men have been diagnosed with prostate cancer in (a) Tamworth and (b) the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [215770]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for male patients diagnosed with prostate cancer for the years 2001 to 2005 for a) Tamworth local authority and b) West Midlands government office region are given in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, Tamworth local authority and West Midlands government office region, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Tamworth	34	45	42	53	52
West Midlands	3,003	3,241	3,274	3,502	3,350

[1] Prostate cancer is defined by code C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Shipbuilding: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the shipbuilding industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; and how many people aged (i) 25 years and under and (ii) 26 years and over there were in each category. [215721]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people were employed in the shipbuilding industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; and how many people aged (i) 25 years or under and (ii) 26 years or over there were in each category. [215721].

The definitive source for the number of people employed is normally the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, because of the interest in the shipbuilding industry, estimates of the number of jobs have been compiled from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI/1). Because the ABI/1 cannot provide a breakdown by age, figures for the proportion of total employees aged 25 years or under have been estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS).

The attached table provides an estimate of jobs in the building and repairing of ships industry (Standard Industrial Classification (1992/2003) 3155) for England and the North East for each year from 1997 to 2006, the most recent available. Estimates for South Tyneside and Jarrow are not available.

Figures from the ABI/1 do not include self-employed jobs and therefore these estimates will understate the actual total number of jobs.

As with any survey, results from the ABI/1 and APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of jobs in the building and repairing of ships industry1,2 and the proportion of employees aged 25 years or under3

Thousands and percentage, not seasonally adjusted

	England		North East	
	Count	*Percentage aged 25 and under*	*Count*	*Percentage aged 25 and under*
1997[4]	21	9	4	15
1998	23	6	4	[5]
1999	20	12	2	9
2000	20	9	2	19
2001	20	11	2	[5]
2002	21	13	2	9
2003	18	7	2	[5]
2004	18	14	1	21
2005	17	11	2	[5]
2006	17	9	1	[5]

[1] Standard Industrial Classification (1992/2003) 3511.

[2] The Annual Business Inquiry does not include estimates of self-employment jobs. Therefore the estimates provided will be lower than the actual total.

[3] Derived from the total employees aged 16 and over (Annual Population).

[4] Counts for 1997 are based on estimates from the rescaled Annual Employment Survey and therefore there is a discontinuity between 1997 and 1998.

[5] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.

Notes:

1. Annual Business Inquiry figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For Estimates for the United Kingdom using the Annual Business Inquiry are not available.

2. There are significant discontinuities which affect comparisons of the 2006 ABI/1 estimates with earlier years and additionally with respect to changes to Standard Industrial Classifications and Geographies in 2003. More information is available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi/background_info.asp.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry (ABI/1) and Annual Population Survey (APS)

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the conception rate for persons aged *(a)* under 14, *(b)* between 14 and 16 and *(c)* between 17 and 18 years per thousand women was in each year since 1997. [216671]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate for persons aged (a) under 14, (b) between 14 and 16 and (c) between 17 and 18 years per thousand women was in each year since 1997. (216671)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

The number and rate of conceptions to girls aged (a) under 14, (b) 14 to 16 and (c) 17 to 18 years for England and Wales, 1997 to 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Conceptions by age: number and rate for England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1]

	Under 14		14-16		17-18	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
1997	365	1.2	21,964	23.5	46,647	74.9
1998	423	1.3	21,831	23.5	49,804	78.7
1999	406	1.3	20,873	22.1	47,376	75.8
2000	398	1.2	20,870	21.8	46,261	75.4
2001	400	1.2	20,606	21.1	45,730	73.6
2002	390	1.2	20,960	21.2	46,511	72.7
2003	334	1.0	20,993	20.9	47,445	72.4
2004	337	1.0	20,914	20.6	48,320	72.7
2005	327	1.0	20,938	20.6	49,104	71.7
2006[1]	290	0.9	20,553	20.2	49,149	71.5

[1] Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Note:

Rate per 1,000 females.

Teenage Pregnancy: Infant Mortality

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the rate of infant mortality was of children born to teenage mothers in *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [216668]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the rate of infant mortality was of children born to teenage mothers in (a) the five most deprived areas in England and (b) England in each year since 1997. (216668)

The 5 most deprived areas in England were identified as the local authority districts with highest deprivation according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2004. Hackney had the highest level of deprivation, Tower Hamlets was ranked second, Manchester third, Islington fourth and Liverpool fifth.

The attached table shows infant mortality numbers and rates for mothers aged under 20 in these areas and England from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures for 2006 are provisional.

Infant deaths[1] to mothers aged under 20 by the five most deprived areas in England and England, 1997 to 2006

	Hackney[2]		Tower Hamlets		Manchester		Islington		Liverpool		England	
	Infant deaths	*Infant mortality rate[3]*	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate[3]*	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate[3]*	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate[3]*	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate[3]*	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate[3]*
1997	5	19.5			8	12.0	—	—	4	7.8	391	9.1
1998	—	—	3	11.2	3	3.8	3	18.8	6	11.5	378	8.4
1999	4	15.4	—		5	7.3	3	21.1	5	9.6	381	8.5

Infant deaths[1] to mothers aged under 20 by the five most deprived areas in England and England, 1997 to 2006

	Hackney[2]		Tower Hamlets		Manchester		Islington		Liverpool		England	
	Infant deaths	*Infant mortality rate*[3]	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate*[3]	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate*[3]	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate*[3]	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate*[3]	*Infant deaths*	*Infant mortality rate*[3]
2000					6	8.8			5	9.1	361	8.5
2001	3	11.4			4	6.5			7	15.5	339	8.3
2002	3	11.2			5	7.9			5	11.4	323	8.0
2003					4	6.2			3	6.9	335	8.1
2004					15	22.2			8	17.2	328	7.8
2005					8	12.5			6	14.8	308	7.4
2006[4]					4	6.2			4	9.4	275	6.5

[1] Deaths at ages under 1 year

[2] From 2002 onwards City of London LB is included in the rates for Hackney LB

[3] Per 1,000 live births

[4] Figures for 2006 are provisional

Note:

To protect confidentiality of individuals, numbers and rates based on less than 3 events, are not shown.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there were in (i) each region and (ii) each county in the most recent year for which figures are available. [208852]

Mr. Lammy: Information about the number of apprenticeships starts and completions for England in 2006/07 is given in tables placed in the House Library.

A comprehensive breakdown by English county is not readily available. The second table is a breakdown by local authority, some of which are counties.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what IT contracts his Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215160]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is a new Department which leases its IT equipment and obtains IT services through a contract with Fujitsu Services.

We investigated the feasibility of providing details of the IT contracts that DIUS' agencies have entered into but concluded that to answer would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many jobs his Department expects to relocate under the policy of civil service job dispersal. [213397]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created in June 2007, following Machinery of Government changes. The Department inherited commitments under Lyons review from its predecessors, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Trade and Industry. My Department has a target to relocate out of London and the south-east around 223 posts from its own organisation and its partner organisations by 2010.

At the end of March 2008, 108 posts had been relocated out of London and the south-east by my Department and its partner organisations. My Department is working with our partners to continue to deliver further relocations of posts. We expect to meet the target.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age since his Department was established. [214138]

Mr. Lammy: As part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007 my Department has taken on board terms and conditions of staff transferred in from the former Department for Education and Skills (DFES) and Department for Trade and Industry (DTI). In DFES there was no set retirement age for the majority of staff. In DTI staff could retire at any time between the minimum retirement age of 60 and the maximum retirement age of 65. Staff also have a statutory right to request to continue working beyond 65. Careful consideration is given to such requests, but any offer to continue working beyond that age will be at the discretion of the Department.

A retirement age of 65 has been adopted by central Government for the Senior Civil Service (SCS) but members of the SCS can request to work beyond that age.

Four members of staff have worked beyond age 65 since my Department was set up, three from the former DFES, and one from the former DTI.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214681]

Mr. Lammy: In my Department, for vacancies that are filled through inward secondments, we adhere to the Government guidelines on fair and open competition and ensure that opportunities and the selection process do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, age and sexual orientation.

Occasionally the Department makes contact with or is approached by key delivery partners in the suggestion of identifying staff who can enter DIUS on secondment for a temporary period to assist with a specific specialist piece of work. This is only in cases where we are not able to secure the services and skills of employees within the Department. In these cases specific identified staff are appointed. In all cases appointments are temporary and these do not become permanent civil servants.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) allocated to *(a)* research and *(b)* research grants in each of the last 10 years; and how many new PhD students were supported by the EPSRC in (i) the UK and (ii) Leeds University in each of those years. [213364]

Ian Pearson: The funding allocated by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to research and research grants in each of the last 10 years is shown in table 1. These data are taken from EPSRC annual reports and accounts.

Table 1

		£000
	Expenditure on research grants	*Total expenditure on research*
1998-99	226,344	294,939
1999-2000	238,479	308,603
2000-01	263,202	342,865
2001-02	310,530	439,420
2002-03	325,488	457,068
2003-04	290,847	354,485
2004-05	314,933	364,019
2005-06	366,137	415,716
2006-07	422,577	476,506
2007-08	485,963	562,259

The numbers of new PhD students supported by EPSRC in (i) the UK and (ii) Leeds University over the last 10 years are shown in tables 2 (a) and (b) respectively.

Table 2 (a)—new PhD students supported

	Total students	*Estimated new PhD students within year*
1998	5,366	1,789
1999	5,707	1,902
2000	6,165	2,055
2001	6,226	2,075
2002	7,102	2,367
2003	5,727	1,909
2004	5,594	1,865
2005	5,541	1,583
2006	5,847	1,671
2007	6,124	1,750

Notes:

1. Total students reported are based on fixed date in year.
2. Estimates based on total students divided by number of years of study.
3. From 2005 calculation based on 3.5 years not 3 years to reflect change in average length of PhD.

Table 2 (b)—new PhD students at Leeds university

Financial year	*Total new students at Leeds*
2001/02	88
2002/03	73
2003/04	87
2004/05	101
2005/06	87
2006/07	84
2007/08	82

Note:

Figures for 1999-2001 are not available.

Essex University: INTO

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has had discussions with the University of Essex on proposals by that university to enter into a public-private partnership with the private education company INTO; and if he will make a statement. [215442]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the principle of partnerships between higher education institutions and both public and private sector education providers which can lead the innovative delivery of high quality services. However, we would not expect to discuss individual projects with institutions and we have had no discussions with Essex or any other university in relation to private education companies.

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information, communication and dissemination work in the UK the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training is undertaking in 2008-09. [216642]

Bill Rammell: In 2008/09 the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) will disseminate news, analyses and reports on vocational training in Europe, principally for senior-policy makers and VET experts in the UK, through direct contact, networks, websites, publications and seminars. In the UK, the Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA) helps disseminate Cedefop's work through a dedicated website.

Cedefop's websites have around 15,000 UK visitors each month. Study visits are co-ordinated by Cedefop to exchange ideas and best practice. In 2008, 246 UK experts will participate and 23 visits will be held in the UK.

Graduates

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of working-age people had a degree or equivalent qualification in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [215819]

Bill Rammell: The number of women aged 19-59 and men aged 19-64 in England who hold at least a level 4 qualification increased by nearly 1.9 million between quarter 4, 1997 and quarter 4, 2007. The proportion increased by 8.6 percentage points from 22.3 per cent. to 30.9 per cent.

The supply of graduates has been rising steadily and we know employer demand for graduates remains high. Most large employers (81 per cent. LSC survey on recruitment and training among large employers, 2008) see a level 4 qualification or above as a good indicator for skills. We want to ensure that graduates have both the specialist and broader skills which employers value and that their employment rates remain high.

Through "Higher Education at Work - High Skills: High-Value" we are consulting on our high-level skills strategy and will consider carefully the responses to help us take forward our plans to improve graduate employability and to raise the skills and capability of those already in work.

DIUS uses the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor, the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) to provide estimates about numbers and proportions of the population with a degree or equivalent qualification for English local authorities. These local estimates are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000747/index.shtml

Series are available via this link back to 2001/02 for both the working-age population (i.e. women aged 16-59 and men aged 16-64 (16-59/64)) and the 19-59/64 population which is now the focus for DIUS reporting. Data for earlier years for the 16-59/64 population are also published by the Office for National Statistics via the NOMIS website at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

However, it should be noted that all these local estimates are currently undergoing revision following the reweighting of all underlying datasets to reflect more up-to-date population estimates from ONS. The DIUS series will be revised in August. The updating of the NOMIS series will be completed in the coming months.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university courses for which foundation degrees are not accepted as a basis for entry. [214169]

Bill Rammell: Universities are increasingly accepting foundation degrees as a suitable entry qualification for honours degrees. Over half (54 per cent.) of the students who qualified with a foundation degree in 2004-05 immediately progressed to an honours degree in 2005-06 and other foundation degree graduates may progress to a honours degree later in their careers.

As well as providing a progression route to honours degrees, foundation degrees are a valuable qualification in their own right and offer flexible work-focused qualifications designed with employers to meet their skill needs at that level.

Higher Education: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) London entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [216358]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency and London Government office region, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	London Government office region[2]
1997/98[3]	395	57,145
1998/99	455	70,385
1999/2000	490	73,625
2000/01	540	76,980
2001/02	605	81,100
2002/03	625	88,130
2003/04	675	89,465
2004/05[4]	675	93,900
2005/06	725	92,150
2006/07	715	89,450

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open university but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study.

[2] Figures for London Government office region include double counting as entrants from Bexleyheath and Crayford will also be included in the London Government office region figures.

[3] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open university because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open university by local authority for this year.

[4] The increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be greater than in reality as a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open university (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Labour Market

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had on the provision of a comprehensive labour market information service; what consideration he has given to involving the private sector in developing the service; and if he will make a statement. [214973]

Bill Rammell: The Leitch Review of Skills identified the need to improve the quality of labour market information (LMI). The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) which was launched in April 2008, has a role in monitoring the whole employment and skills system and is well-placed to take this work forward. The UK Commission will be producing a new enhanced standard and framework for sectoral LMI, and a range of products to support the use of labour market information.

In addition, the UK Commission will seek to improve the quality of LMI, which is collected and analysed by partners, to ensure its suitability, rigour, consistency and reliability across the UK. Employers are actively engaged in the work of the Sector Skills Councils in producing their sector-specific labour market information.

Languages: Adult Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on extending foreign language capability as part of lifelong learning courses. [216646]

Bill Rammell: The Government recognise the importance of modern foreign language skills to employers to improve their competitiveness in the global economy. The approach taken by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the light of the decline in adult participation rates in these subjects recognises the key role providers have in reversing this trend by stimulating demand and revitalising the curriculum to equip more adults and young people with modern language skills. To this end each local area is expected to have a core adult learning offer that reflects and responds to the spectrum of individual adult and employer needs.

In addition, the LSC also funds a range of learning opportunities for individual adults within its safeguarded budget for personal and community development (lifelong) learning. Courses to develop foreign language capability are also funded through this budget.

We will continue to give priority to provision for groups of individuals both in the workplace and in the community who are in greatest need of learning.

As part of the national teaching and learning change programme the Quality Improvement Agency on behalf of the Department has developed a suite of foreign language teaching resources which support teachers, tutors, trainers and managers to raise standards of practice and deliver learner success across the foreign language FE curriculum.

On the 16 June 2008 the latest in the suite of foreign language teaching materials, produced for the QIA by Cliffhanger Studios, won a Royal Television Society Award for Innovation in Education, beating off tough competition from the BBC.

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions have been held with Barnet Council over the future use of the National Institute for Medical Research site at Mill Hill after the Institute's operations are relocated to the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; [214860]

(2) what the purchase price was of the Brill Place site for the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; how this was funded; and by whom; [214862]

(3) what his latest estimate is of *(a)* the cost of and *(b)* timescale for (i) construction of and (ii) relocation of each of the constituent organisations to the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; how the cost will be funded; and by whom; [214864]

(4) what the purchase price was of the Temperance Hospital site, previously planned to be the location for the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation's relocated National Institute for Medical Research; when this purchase was completed; how and by whom it was funded; how much has been spent on *(a)* (i) security and (ii) maintenance at the site so far, *(b)* preparatory studies and design work for the now aborted move and *(c)* professional fees in respect of the purchase of the site; what the reasons were for the decision that the site was not suitable; what is now anticipated to be the future use of the site; and if he will make a statement; [214865]

(5) what discussions have been held with Camden Council over planning matters arising from the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI); when it is anticipated a planning application will be submitted; what discussions have been held with the local community in the vicinity of Brill Place over the proposed UKCMRI; and if he will make a statement; [214868]

(6) what level of containment laboratories will be provided at the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; and if he will make a statement; [214869]

(7) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* scientific, *(b)* other professional and *(c)* other staff who are likely to move from the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill to the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; and if he will make a statement; [214870]

(8) what discussions have been held with the *(a)* police, *(b)* security services and *(c)* Health and Safety Executive over (i) safety and (ii) security issues, including biosecurity, at the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation site; and if he will make a statement. [214872]

Ian Pearson: These are matters for the Medical Research Council (MRC) and its partners. I will ask the chief executive of the council to write to my hon. Friend.

Overseas Students: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to promote studying at British universities in Israel; and if he will make a statement; [216349]

(2) how much was spent by his Department promoting British universities in Israel in the last 12 months. [216351]

Bill Rammell: The Government are seeking through the second phase of the Prime Minister's initiative for international education (PMI2), to maintain and enhance the UK's position as a leading study destination. Marketing UK education, including but not exclusively higher education, is a core component of the PMI2 and this function is exercised by the British Council on the Department's behalf. The British Council is involved in a range of activities to support higher education links between the UK and Israel with around £450,000 spent in 2007-08 on these activities.

Students: Finance

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students resident in the London Borough of Bexley made applications to the Access to Learning Fund in the last period for which figures are available. [215058]

Bill Rammell: 360 students with a home address in the London borough of Bexley made applications to their higher education institutions for assistance from the Access to Learning Fund in 2006-07.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of individuals from whom the Student Loans Company has continued to collect payments although the debt had been cleared in each year since 2001. [206301]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company's (SLC) best estimate of the number of borrowers it has continued to collect repayments from although their loan has been paid off for each year since 2001 is shown in the following table. The estimated 20,900 borrowers with income contingent repayment (ICR) loans who made overpayments in 2006-07 represented just 1.9 per cent. of the total number of borrowers who were eligible to make repayments had their earning passed the £15,000 earnings threshold. Over-repayments from borrowers with mortgage style loans are not included because any over-repayments once their loan has been cleared will only arise where the borrower has failed to cancel repayment arrangements with their bank.

There are a variety of circumstances why borrowers overpay but this mainly occurs when loans come to the end of repayment. The number of over-repayments has increased over the period covered by the answer as the number of borrowers with ICR loans entering into repayment has grown. ICR loans were introduced in 1998, so in the early years covered by the answer, relatively few borrowers were making repayments. For student loan borrowers with ICR loans, repayments are predominately made through the tax system. Due to the time lag in the SLC receiving information from HM Revenue and Customs, it is possible for borrowers to overpay before the SLC becomes aware that their repayments should stop.

Where the pattern of payments shows that repayment will be completed during the coming year, the SLC invites borrowers to get in touch to discuss when repayments should stop. Borrowers are then able to make manual repayments. If they do not respond promptly to the SLC, or ignore the invitation, they will probably overpay.

The SLC has recently introduced a new website facility specifically for repaying customers. This will give borrowers the ability to view their most current statement and it will also give them the chance to calculate their balance based on what they can see in their payslips.

The SLC is working on further improving the loan end process and has been asked to put in place arrangements which will reduce the number of borrowers over-repaying at the end of repayment. Those arrangements, which are likely to be voluntary, are expected to be in place towards the end of next year.

Any borrower who has repaid should contact the SLC immediately to obtain a full refund with interest. All refunds include interest at the same (retail price index) rate that was charged on the loan.

Estimated number of borrowers with income contingent repayment student loans who have continued to make repayments although their debt has been cleared[1]

Financial year	*Total estimated number of borrowers who SLC has continued to collect from although their loan has been paid off*	*Total number of borrowers who have passed their SRDD*[2]	*Borrowers who have overpaid as a percentage of those in repayment*
2001-02	600	69,900	0.9
2002-03	3,300	231,300	1.4
2003-04	9,900	446,800	2.2
2004-05	15,600	669,100	2.3
2005-06	21,800	885,700	2.5
2006-07	20,900	1,118,700	1.9

[1] Includes all borrowers who have passed their statutory repayment due date (SRDD) irrespective of their current status. English domiciled customers only. Borrowers may be counted in more than one year if they have received refunds in more than one year. The number of over-repayments has increased over the period as the number of borrowers in repayment have increased. Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

[2] Number of borrowers passed SRDD in years 2001-02 to 2004-05 includes borrowers who have fully repaid their loans.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Students: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students received monies from Learning and Skills Council funding in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [215738]

Mr. Lammy: Details of student numbers receiving funding from the Learning and Skills Council at the level requested is not collected by my Department. This is an operational matter for the LSC as they determine these matters after discussions with local providers, partners and other organisations that are necessary to support the delivery of the Council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Lady with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Surveying: Land

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of qualified land surveyors; and if he will make a statement. [216579]

Mr. Lammy: In line with my answer to questions 214450 and 214487 on this subject, tabled by the hon. Gentleman last month, I have asked the Chief Executive of Construction Skills to write to him directly about this matter.

Train to Gain Programme: Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Train to Gain programme cost in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by main budget heading. [216775]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006, Train to Gain has grown quickly. It has now engaged 92,210 employers, supported 454,920 employees to begin learning programmes, and delivered 186,720 full level 2 and over 23,000 Skills for Life achievements.

The latest available full year figures for Train to Gain spend are contained in the LSC's published accounts for 2006-2007; a summary is set out in the following table.

Table 1: Train to Gain spend 2006-07

	£000 2006-07
Employer Training Pilots	20,785
Train to Gain	172,609
Adult Apprenticeships (Level 3 Pilots)	576
Higher Skills for Women	90
Total	194,060

The LSC's accounts for 2007-08 will be published at the end of July 2008.

Vocational Education: Grants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the making of grants under the EU Lifelong Learning Programme for projects to develop the credit system for vocational education and training; and how many such projects are being funded in England. [216655]

Mr. Lammy: The European Commission issued a call for proposals (Official Journal of the European Union 2008/C 132/08) for projects to develop the credit system for vocational education and training. The closing date for applications to the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture is 13 August 2008. No projects will be selected for funding until after that date.

Vocational Training: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults post-16 were in skills training in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds West constituency supported by Government schemes or allowances in each year since 1997. [209210]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the total number of LSC-funded learners (split by age) resident in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency by academic year from 2002-03 to 2006-07. Data for other years are not available.

	Aged 16-18		Aged 19+		Total	
	Leeds metropolitan district	Leeds West constituency	Leeds metropolitan district	Leeds West constituency	Leeds metropolitan district	Leeds West constituency
2002-03	18,110	1,970	48,600	5,870	66,760	7,850
2003-04	18,670	1,980	51,770	6,580	70,460	8,550
2004-05	19,150	2,070	49,900	6,350	69,070	8,420
2005-06	19,660	2,000	44,200	6,360	64,060	8,390
2006-07	19,960	2,100	35,720	6,210	56,090	8,340

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The figures represent total in-learning volumes in a given year (that is to say the total number of individuals who took part in learning at some point during the academic year) and cover Further Education, Work Based Learning, School Sixth Forms (all years) and Train to Gain (from 2005-06).
3. Consistent information on learner numbers in FE is not available prior to 2002-03.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record and School Census

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Class Sizes

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in each secondary academy school is. [216662]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Academies[1] classes as taught by one teacher[2] January 2008

			Classes taught by one teacher		
URN	Establishment name	Local authority area	Number of pupils	Number of classes	Average class size
105135	St Paul's Academy	Greenwich	680	28	24.3
134693	Mossbourne Community Academy	Hackney	773	35	22.1
131062	The Petchey Academy	Hackney	354	13	27.2
131609	The Bridge Academy Hackney	Hackney	186	8	23.3
131752	Burlington Danes Academy	Hammersmith and Fulham	781	38	20.6
134314	St. Mary Magdalene Academy	Islington	392	13	30.2
134815	Lambeth Academy	Lambeth	727	38	19.1
135073	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	Lewisham	1,302	65	20.0
135070	Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Lewisham	830	37	22.4
135264	St. Matthew Academy	Lewisham	752	34	22.1
134222	City of London Academy (Southward)	Southwark	946	47	20.1
134225	Harris Academy at Peckham	Southwark	1,158	64	18.1

Academies—classes as taught by one teacher—January 2008

			Classes taught by one teacher		
URN	Establishment name	Local authority area	Number of pupils	Number of classes	Average class size
131747	Harris Academy Bermondsey	Southwark	865	37	23.4
135318	Walworth Academy	Southwark	925	44	21.0
135375	St Michael and All Angels C of E Academy	Southwark	754	44	17.1
135401	Bacon's College	Southwark	1,031	56	18.4
135346	Ashcroft Technology Academy	Wandsworth	997	50	19.9
130912	Paddington Academy	Westminster	1,010	47	21.5
131262	Westminster Academy	Westminster	794	48	16.5
135242	King Solomon Academy	Westminster	34	2	17.0
134798	London Academy	Barnet	1,140	59	19.3
133769	The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley	1,496	64	23.4
134226	Capital City Academy	Brent	1,082	50	21.6
135249	Harris Academy South Norwood	Croydon	721	39	18.5
135311	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	Croydon	942	44	21.4
134369	West London Academy	Ealing	1,250	62	20.2
134311	Oasis Academy Enfield	Enfield	179	7	25.6
133386	Greig City Academy	Haringey	828	50	16.6
134797	Stockley Academy	Hillingdon	795	40	19.9
135004	The Harefield Academy	Hillingdon	581	28	20.8
131897	Harris Academy Merton	Merton	660	37	17.8
134003	St Marks Church of England Academy	Merton	800	38	21.1
132727	Walthamstow Academy	Waltham Forest	718	36	19.9
134993	Sandwell Academy	Sandwell	703	36	19.5
135170	Shireland Collegiate Academy	Sandwell	964	52	18.5
135234	George Salter Collegiate Academy	Sandwell	886	48	18.5
129342	Grace Academy	Solihull	1,015	59	17.2
133697	Walsall Academy	Walsall	926	46	20.1
101857	The Academy of St Francis of Assisi	Liverpool	769	34	22.6
131065	North Liverpool Academy	Liverpool	990	65	15.2
135174	Belvedere Academy	Liverpool	487	32	15.2
134224	Manchester Academy	Manchester	831	37	22.5
135296	William Hulme's Grammar School	Manchester	691	39	17.7
135313	St Anne's Academy	Rochdale	557	27	20.6
135071	Salford City Academy	Salford	594	34	17.5
135262	Stockport Academy	Stockport	449	23	19.5
131749	The Barnsley Academy	Barnsley	410	24	17.1
135007	Trinity Academy	Doncaster	1,107	57	19.4
131895	Sheffield Park Academy	Sheffield	1,055	54	19.5
131896	Sheffield Springs Academy	Sheffield	952	46	20.7
130009	Dixons City Academy	Bradford	961	53	18.1
135367	Bradford Academy	Bradford	873	39	22.4
131898	David Young Community Academy	Leeds	878	54	16.3
134221	The City Academy Bristol	Bristol, City of	1,011	63	16.0
135300	Bristol Brunel Academy	Bristol, City of	827	39	21.2
135295	John Cabot Academy	South Gloucestershire	956	55	17.4
133768	Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough	917	46	19.9
134223	The King's Academy	Middlesbrough	1,051	53	19.8
130908	Macmillan Academy	Middlesbrough	1,393	82	17.0
135176	Oasis Academy Immingham	North East Lincolnshire	678	31	21.9
135209	Oasis Academy Wintringham	North East Lincolnshire	650	24	27.1
135294	Havelock Academy	North East Lincolnshire	704	32	22.0
135337	Barnfield West Academy Luton	Luton	750	34	22.1
135338	Barnfield South Academy Luton	Luton	721	32	22.5
135120	Landau Forte College	Derby	995	51	19.5
135314	Eastbourne Church of England Academy	Darlington	561	28	20.0
128364	The Samworth Enterprise Academy	Leicester	500	19	26.3
[illegible]	Swindon Academy	Swindon	1,118	45	24.8
130247	John Madejski Academy	Reading	577	31	18.6
135263	Thomas Deacon Academy	Peterborough	1,879	92	20.4
133114	The Gateway Academy	Thurrock	778	36	21.6
128340	The Marlowe Academy	Kent	514	33	15.6
135195	Folkestone Academy	Kent	950	47	20.2
135290	Marsh Academy	Kent	818	45	18.2
135297	Leigh Technology Academy	Kent	1,203	67	18.0

Academies—classes as taught by one teacher[1]: January 2008

URN	*Establishment name*	*Local authority area*	*Classes taught by one teacher* *Number of pupils*	*Number of classes*	*Average class size*
135305	Spires Academy	Kent	259	14	18.5
135372	New Line Learning Academy	Kent	894	44	20.3
135371	Cornwallis Academy	Kent	1,419	67	21.2
134253	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	Nottingham	1,300	73	17.8
135149	Madeley Academy	Telford and Wrekin	708	32	22.1
134814	Northampton Academy	Northamptonshire	1,251	60	20.9
135365	North Oxfordshire Academy	Oxfordshire	657	33	19.9
	All academies		68,620	3,470	19.8
	All state funded secondary schools[2]		3,082,260	147,630	20.9

[1] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the Census in January. Includes sixth form classes where applicable.
[2] Includes local authority maintained secondary schools, CTCs and academies.
Note:
National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are participating in the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how many schools in each participating authority are scheduled for *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* replacement. [216735]

Jim Knight: The following table identifies the local authorities participating in the Building Schools for the Future programme whose proposals for refurbishing and replacing schools have been agreed.

Local authority	*Number of schools scheduled for* *refurbishment*	*replacement*
Bradford[1]	0	10
Barnsley	0	10
Birmingham[1]	7	12
Blackburn	5	3
Bristol[1]	0	5
Cambridgeshire[1]	5	1
Derbyshire[1]	4	3
Durham[1]	6	3
Gateshead[1]	2	0
Greenwich[1]	2	3
Hackney	6	4
Haringey	11	2
Islington	6	6
Kent[1]	7	5
Knowsley	0	9
Lambeth[1]	1	4
Lancashire[1]	3	1
Leeds[1]	10	4
Leicester	12	6
Lewisham	9	7
Liverpool[1]	5	3
Luton[1]	3	5
Manchester[1]	10	6
Middlesbrough	5	3
Newcastle	5	5
Newham[1]	10	5
North Lincolnshire	5	3
Nottingham[1]	5	6
Rochdale	9	5
Salford	1	—
Sandwell[1]	5	3
Sheffield[1]	—	4
Solihull	1	3
Southwark[1]	4	9
South Tyneside	5	1
Sunderland	7	10
Tameside	—	—
Tower Hamlets[1]	6	11
Waltham Forest[1]	5	2
Westminster	8	2

---

[1] These local authorities have further projects in later waves of the programme; detailed school plans for these later projects have yet to be confirmed.

The following local authorities are participating in the BSF programme, but their plans for replacing or refurbishing the school estate are yet to be confirmed:

Barking and Dagenham, Bedford, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bournemouth and Poole, Camden, Coventry, Derby, Doncaster, Ealing, Enfield, Essex, Halton, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hartlepool, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kirklees, North East Lincolnshire, North Tyneside, Nottinghamshire, Oldham, Portsmouth, Redcar and Cleveland, Rotherham, Somerset, Southampton, Staffordshire, St Helens, Stockton-on-Tees, Suffolk, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Wandsworth, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been committed to the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how much in private finance initiative credit has been committed. [216736]

Jim Knight: The amount of capital resources allocated to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme between 2005-06 and 2010-11 is £7.84 billion of conventional funding, and £7.454 billion of PFI credits. From 2008-09, the BSF budget includes academies.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued on the consultations to take place before a local authority bids for Building Schools for the Future funds. [216749]

Jim Knight: The Strategy for Change guidance sets out the requirement that authorities are able to demonstrate that they have consulted extensively on their Building Schools for the Future (BSF) proposals. We have also issued additional guidance for local authorities on school competitions and where the consultation processes align with the BSF timescales.

Child Development Grant

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the overall cost of implementing the Child Development Grant of £200 nationwide; and when he expects the Child Development Grant to be available to all parents. [215012]

Kevin Brennan: The Child Development Grants Pilot will run in 10 local authorities and will test how financial support can be used to encourage disadvantaged families to utilise the childcare and other services offered by their local children's centres. The Child Development Grant pilot is one of a number of child poverty pilots announced at Budget 2008 as part of the wider child poverty strategy. A comprehensive evaluation will be undertaken to determine the likely impact and cost-effectiveness of all the child poverty pilots before a decision is made about whether any of the initiatives are rolled out nationally. Any decisions on future roll-out of Child Development Grants and other pilots will be subject to future spending reviews.

Children in Care

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked-after children in each ethnic category there are in England; how many people or couples in each ethnic category in England have been assessed as suitable adoptive parents and are yet to adopt; and if he will make a statement. [214080]

Kevin Brennan: Information on how many people or couples in each ethnic category in England have been assessed as suitable adoptive parents and are yet to adopt is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of looked-after children in each ethnic category in England is shown in the following table. The information is taken from Table A1 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007". The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnic origin, 2003-07, England

		Numbers					Percentage				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All children looked after at 31 March		61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Ethnic origin											
White											
	White British	47,300	46,500	45,900	45,000	44,700	77	76	75	75	74
	White Irish	580	520	500	440	400	1	1	1	1	1
	Any other White background	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,500	3	3	3	3	3
Mixed											
	White and Black Caribbean	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
	White and Black African	400	410	440	450	440	1	1	1	1	1
	White and Asian	750	720	720	760	770	1	1	1	1	1
	Any other mixed background	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British											
	Indian	300	300	280	300	290	0	0	0	0	0
	Pakistani	510	520	550	610	660	1	1	1	1	1
	Bangladeshi	260	230	270	280	280	0	0	0	0	0
	Any other Asian background	520	480	650	880	1,000	1	1	1	1	2
Black or Black British											
	Caribbean	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	3	3	3	3	3
	African	1,800	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,500	3	4	4	4	4
	Any other Black background	870	880	900	900	880	1	1	1	1	1
Other ethnic groups											

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnic origin, 2003 to 2007, England

		Numbers					Percentages				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Chinese	80	120	120	120	130	0	0	0	0	0
	Any other ethnic group	750	840	900	1,000	1,200	1	1	1	2	2

Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after

Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials

Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey

Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after

Children in Care: Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of looked-after children in Staffordshire achieved results equivalent to the average results achieved in *(a)* England and *(b)* Staffordshire in each key stage examination in each of the last five years. [210047]

Kevin Brennan: Information collected on the attainment of looked-after children are shown in the following tables.

Key Stage 1 performance of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months, 12 months ending 30 September 2003 to 2007, England and Staffordshire local authority

	England						Staffordshire					
	Percentage achieving at least level 2 in						Percentage achieving at least level 2 in					
	Reading		Writing		Mathematics		Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children
2003	56.1	84	48.3	81	67.0	90		87	60	85	61	92
2004	54.4	85	48.3	82	65.5	90	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2005	57.2	85	51.8	82	64.4	91	65	88	63	86	65	92
2006	57.2	84	51.6	81	64.0	90	59	88	52	85	67	92
2007	55.1	84	50.7	80	63.1	90	54	88	43	85	54	92

Target level of age group

Source: DCSF Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England"

Whenever the numerator is five or less or the denominator is 10 or less of the underlying numbers from which a percentage has been calculated, the percentage has been suppressed

Not available. KS1 results for looked-after children has been omitted for this year's publication. This is due to the KS1 trial that took place. A direct comparison could not be made at local authority level between those LAs which took part in the trial and which provided teacher assessments figures with the LAs that did not take part in the trial and that provided the usual task/test results

Source:

OC2 Survey

Key Stage 2 performance of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months, 12 months ending 30 September 2003 to 2007, England and Staffordshire local authority

	England						Staffordshire					
	Percentage achieving at least level 4 in						Percentage achieving at least level 4 in					
	English		Mathematics		Science		English		Mathematics		Science	
	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children
2003	37.1	75	34.8	73	52.9	87	52	76	48	73	61	88
2004	38.9	77	37.2	74	53.0	86	30	79	43	74	52	88
2005	42.1	79	37.6	75	57.4	86	33	79	23	77	46	86
2006	42.8	79	40.9	76	57.2	87	46	80	46	77	63	88
2007	45.9	80	43.4	77	56.8	88	35	81	41	78	50	89

Target level of age group

Source: DCSF Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England"

Source:

OC2 Survey

Key Stage 3 performance of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months, 12 months ending 30 September 2003 to 2007, England and Staffordshire local authority

	England						Staffordshire					
	Percentage achieving at least level 5 in						Percentage achieving at least level 5 in					
	English		Mathematics		Science		English		Mathematics		Science	
	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children
2003	22.3	69	23.3	71	23.2	68	20	71	28	73	30	72
2004	22.5	71	25.8	73	20.8	66	13	73		76		70
2005	26.7	74	28.3	74	25.9	70	14	76	26	77	29	73

Key Stage 3 performance of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months, 12 months ending 30 September 2003 to 2007: England and Staffordshire local authority

	England						Staffordshire					
	Percentage achieving at least level 5 in(1)						Percentage achieving at least level 5 in(1)					
	English		Mathematics		Science		English		Mathematics		Science	
	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children
2006	28.1	72	32.8	77	29.4	72	38	75	46	80	41	75
2007	29.2	74	30.7	76	29.2	73	27	76	31	78	38	75

(1) Target level of age group.

Source: DCSF Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England"

Wherever the numerator is five or less or the denominator is 10 or less of the underlying numbers from which a percentage has been calculated, the percentage has been suppressed.

Source:

OC2 Survey

GCSE performance or equivalents of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in year 11, 12 months ending 30 September 2003 to 2007: England and Staffordshire local authority

	England						Staffordshire					
	Percentage obtaining at least						Percentage obtaining at least					
	One GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ		Five A*-G GCSE grades (or equivalent)		Five A*-C GCSE grades (or equivalent)		One GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ		Five A*-G GCSE grades (or equivalent)		Five A*-C GCSE grades (or equivalent)	
	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children	Looked after	All children
2003	53	95	37	89	9	51	57	95	41	91	18	52
2004	56	96	39	89	9	54	48	97	41	92	[illegible]	51
2005	60	97	41	90	11	57	55	97	30	91	[illegible]	54
2006	63	98	41	90	12	59	49	98	36	92	[illegible]	57
2007	64	99	43	90	13	62	78	98	61	93	17	60

(1) Expressed as a percentage of all looked-after children in year 11.

Source: DCSF Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)". Figures for 2003 and 2004 are based on pupils aged 15. Figures for 2004 to 2007 are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Wherever the numerator is five or less or the denominator is 10 or less of the underlying numbers from which a percentage has been calculated, the percentage has been suppressed.

Source:

OC2 Survey

At a National level, the DCSF is investigating the quality of matching data on looked-after children to the National Pupil Database (NPD), which provides a wide range of data on the educational attainment of children and young people.

We are determined to do more to improve the education of looked-after children. Raising their attainment is key to improving their life chances and ensuring a successful transition to adulthood. We have set out our intentions in the White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" and its implementation plan "Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care" published by the Government, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

Children in Care: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of looked-after children in Staffordshire were entered for *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three, *(e)* four and *(f)* five GCSEs in each of the last five years; [215804]

(2) what percentage of looked-after children in Staffordshire achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above in each of the last five years. [215805]

Kevin Brennan: Data collected since 2000 and published in "Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children Twelve months to 30 September", show the GCSE performance or equivalents of children who were looked after for at least 12 months. The available information for Staffordshire local authority is shown in the following table.

GCSE performance or equivalents of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Year 11, 12 months ending 30 September 2003-07: Staffordshire local authority

		Percentage			
	Number looked after in year 11 old enough to sit GCSE or GNVQ exams	Who sat at least one GCSE or GNVQ	1 GCSE at grade A* - G or a GNVQ	5 A* - G GCSE grades (or equivalent)	5 A* - C GCSE grades (or equivalent)
2003	45	100	57	41	18
2004	45	48	48	41	[illegible]
2005	45	55	55	30	[illegible]
2006	60	49	49	36	[illegible]

GCSE performance or equivalents of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Year 11, 12 months ending 30 September 2007: Staffordshire local authority

		Percentage			
	Number looked after in year 11 old enough to sit GCSE or GNVQ exams	Who sat at least one GCSE or GNVQ	1 GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ	5 A*-G GCSE grades or equivalent	5 A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent
2007	45	78	78	61	17

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Expressed as a percentage of all looked after children in year 11.
[3] Wherever the numerator is five or less or the denominator is five or less of the underlying numbers from which a percentage has been calculated, the percentage has been suppressed.
Source:
OC2 Survey

We do not collect information about the numbers of looked-after children according to how many GCSEs they were entered for. However, these data are available at a local level enabling local authorities to set targets for the attainment of looked-after children at key stage four. These targets are negotiated with the National Strategies and Government Offices and form a statutory part of a local authority's local area agreement.

At a National level the DCSF is investigating the quality of matching data on looked-after children to the national pupil database (NPD), which provides a wide range of data on the educational attainment of children and young people.

We are determined to do more and improving the education of looked-after children is a top priority. It is key to improving their life chances and a successful transition to adulthood. We have set out our intentions in "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the implementation plan "Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care" published by the Government with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

Children: HIV Infection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities on managing the special needs of HIV positive children in (i) education and (ii) local authority care. [215435]

Kevin Brennan: We have no plans to issue specific guidance to schools and local authorities on managing the special needs of HIV positive children in education and local authority care.

In 2005, this Department, jointly with the Department of Health, published guidance for schools and local authorities entitled "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings". Although not specific to managing the needs of HIV positive children, the guide recommends that while children with medical needs can attend schools regularly and take part in normal activities, school staff may need to take extra care to ensure that those children and others are not put at risk.

It is for local authorities, schools and governing bodies to work out their own policies on supporting children with medical needs, in the light of statutory responsibilities and their own local requirements.

Children: Sports

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of levels of sporting participation by children in inner London; and if he will make a statement. [216477]

Kevin Brennan: The annual school sport survey found that in 2006-07, 85 per cent. of five-16 year olds in inner London boroughs were participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport a week up from 64 per cent. in 2004-05.

New opportunities for children and young people to participate in PE and sport are being created through the PE and Sport Strategy. The strategy aims to offer young people, aged five to 16 years, five hours of sport a week and three hours for young people aged 16-19 years.

Children's Centres: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire. [215826]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently four designated Sure Start children's centres in Tamworth offering services to approximately 4,000 children under five and their families. There are a total of 38 children's centres in Staffordshire, offering services to approximately 35,000 children.

Local authorities are currently planning the final phase of the roll-out of children's centres so that by 2010 there will be a children's centre for every community. Staffordshire has been given an indicative number of a further 15 centres required to reach all remaining under fives in the county. This figure is subject to confirmation following planning discussions between the local authority and the Department's delivery partner, Together for Children.

Children's Fund

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of expenditure from the Children's Fund has been incurred by community and voluntary groups in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [216557]

Beverley Hughes: The Children's Fund allocations for Enfield, Greater London and England for each year since its inception are as follows:

Children's Fund allocations

£

	Enfield	All London boroughs	England
2001-02		10,850,000	67,600,000
2002-03	63,219	18,100,000	118,917,000

Children's Fund allocations

	Enfield	*All London boroughs*	*England* £
2003-04	661,301	31,601,401	202,094,736
2004-05	874,843	26,848,933	160,026,096
2005-06	711,515	24,163,830	145,530,848
2006-07	711,515	22,633,981	134,164,710
2007-08	711,515	22,243,023	131,804,428

Expenditure information for these years (which in some cases varies significantly) is not readily available. Administration costs of the Children's Fund Partnerships made up an average of approximately 12 per cent. of the funding allocation in each year with the remaining balance being used mainly to fund community and voluntary groups.

Cowes High School

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to make a funding allocation through the Building Schools for the Future programme for the rebuilding of Cowes High School on the Isle of Wight; and to which organisation such an allocation will be made. [216184]

Jim Knight: A funding allocation for the rebuilding of Cowes High School was made to Isle of Wright council, through the Building Schools for the Future One-School Pathfinder programme, in January 2007. The full allocation is £32 million and the first payment was made through the standards fund in May 2007.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214666]

Kevin Brennan: The purchase value of the computer systems being used by the Department is £14,157,360 and their value at 31 March 2008 was £7,947,765.

The Department's fixed asset accounting policy is consistent with the FReM.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what IT contracts his Departments has entered into in the last two years. [215121]

Kevin Brennan: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212492]

Kevin Brennan: Figures are detailed in the following tables for grades 6 and below. The figures do not reflect the senior civil service, where it is not possible to calculate an hourly rate, given their contracts of employment set an expected minimum number of hours and the requirement to work additional hours for the performance of their duties.

Temporary refers to staff employed by the Department on short term contracts and therefore excludes agency workers who are not employees of the Department.

National

Grade	*Permanent hourly rate*	*Temporary hourly rate* £
EA AA	6.80	
EA AO	7.70	
EO	9.80	8.90
Grade 6	25.40	
Grade 7	20.70	
HEO	12.20	
SEO	15.10	

London

Grade	*Permanent hourly rate*	*Temporary hourly rate* £
EA AA	8.40	
EA AO	9.30	8.70
EO	11.30	10.50
Grade 6	28.10	
Grade 7	23.00	
HEO	23.00	
SEO	16.70	

' ' = No temporary staff in specialist grades therefore these are not reflected in the information provided.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215217]

Kevin Brennan: The purchase of newspaper, magazines and other publications is recorded under the general heading of books and newspapers. DCSF is unable to separately identify subscriptions as such expenditure is recorded under this general heading.

Details of expenditure on books, newspapers and magazines incurred by the Department in each of the last 24 months and recorded in the Departments' integrated financial information system are as follows:

	£
July 2006	11,249.72
August 2006	13,806.66
September 2006	9,054.94
October 2006	19,464.11
November 2006	9,057.42
December 2006	12,771.95
January 2007	4,869.95
February 2007	14,378.02
March 2007	12,272.65
April 2007	8,132.53

	£
May 2007	13,214.94
June 2007	7,860.48
July 2007	15,304.11
August 2007	8,021.07
September 2007	15,902.31
October 2007	20,640.38
November 2007	5,173.04
December 2007	5,990.21
January 2008	4,435.82
February 2008	9,234.69
March 2008	14,104.81
April 2008	12,360.97
May 2008	3,725.66
June 2008	4,777.65

DCSF was established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The response also covers those areas of responsibility held by its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Departmental Research

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many educational researchers were employed by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [216210]

Jim Knight: The Department currently employs 30 social researchers. These researchers work on a range of issues including educational research but also including other research on young people, children and families. Historical data are only available for the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-3 and 2006-07 as follows:

		Number
2000-01	Department for Education and Employment	83
2001-02	Department for Education and Skills	50
2002-03	Department for Education and Skills	60
2006-07	Department for Education and Skills	37

Since 2003, QCA has employed the following number of educational researchers in each year:

	Number
2003	15
2004	19
2005	18
2006	18
2007	14
2008	15

Information for 2001 and 2002 is not available.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people in his Department and its predecessor worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214133]

Kevin Brennan: My Department has no set retirement age for the majority of staff. A retirement age of 65 has been adopted by central Government for the senior civil service (SCS) but members of the SCS can request to work beyond that age. The following table shows the number of people in my Department who have worked beyond 65 in the past five years:

	Total staff
2008	7
2007	4
2006	2
2005	2
2004	1

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214625]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007/08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997 to 1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dyscalculia

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of dyscalculia on school examination results; and if he will make a statement. [215093]

Jim Knight: We have not made a specific assessment of the effects of dyscalculia on school examination results. However, we are aware that in 2005 the Qualifications and Curriculum Agency published a review of research in relation to dyscalculia, which notes that tests and definitions of dyscalculia vary.

The Department's Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07" was published on 27 November 2007. This indicates that whereas 68.7 per cent. of children who did not have identified special educational needs (SEN) obtained five A*-C grades at GCSE, only 23.1 per cent. of children on the school-based stages of SEN support reached that level of attainment and only around 9.2 per cent. of those with statements. We intend to publish attainment figures by type of need as an additional table to this Statistical First Release during the week commencing 7 July 2008.

In 2006, 22 per cent. of children at School Action Plus who have a specific learning difficulty as their primary type of need (dyscalculia, dyslexia or dyspraxia) achieved the equivalent of five A*-C grades at GCSE, as did 14 per cent. of children who had a statement for these needs. This compared to 65.9 per cent. of children who did not have identified SEN.

In the Children's Plan, which we published in December last year, we recognised that more needs to be done to improve outcomes and provision for children with SEN. In a written statement on 6 May 2008, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that Sir Jim Rose had been asked, in the light of evidence, to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia.

In developing his recommendations, Sir Jim Rose will be considering evidence of practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, including those who are experiencing difficulties associated with dyscalculia. He has agreed to prepare a report containing his recommendations early in 2009.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many staff defrauded the education maintenance allowance system in each year since it was launched; and if he will make a statement; [214508]

(2) what estimate he has made of the losses to his Department from fraudulent claims for education maintenance allowance system in each year since it was launched; and if he will make a statement. [214509]

Jim Knight: Responsibility for operating the education maintenance allowance, and maintaining and implementing a strategy for managing the risk of fraud, was transferred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 1 April 2005. The LSC have provided a response to these questions as follows:

> Since the national roll out of EMA in England in September 2004, there have been no identified cases of fraud by staff at the Assessment and Payment Body (APB), Learning Providers, or the Learning and Skills Council.
>
> The total losses to date arising from fraudulent claims that have been identified since national roll out amount to £58,635. This equates to less than 0.0001 per cent. of the total EMA budget since roll out.
>
> This answer only refers to the EMA scheme in England the EMA schemes in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the devolved administrations.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils at schools in Greater London achieved level 5 or above in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science at (i) key stage 2 and (ii) key stage 3 in each year since 1997. [215081]

Jim Knight: The information requested for Greater London is shown in the following tables alongside that for England as a whole.

Key stage 2 and key stage 3 results for Greater London since 1997

	Key stage 2						Key stage 3		
	Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above			Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above[2]			Percentage achieving of pupils level 5 or above		
	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science
1997	60	59	65	[3]	[3]	[3]	54	53	53
1998	64	56	66	[3]	[3]	[3]	62	52	49
1999	68	67	75	[3]	[3]	[3]	60	56	48
2000	73	70	83	27	24	35	61	59	51
2001	75	70	86	28	25	33	62	61	58
2002	74	73	85	27	27	36	64	63	61
2003	76	72	85	28	28	38	66	67	63
2004	77	73	84	26	31	40	70	70	62
2005	79	74	85	26	30	44	74	71	65
2006	80	75	85	32	32	43	73	75	68
2007[1]	80	76	87	32	32	45	75	75	70

Key stage 2 and key stage 3 results for England since 1997

	Key stage 2						Key stage 3		
	Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above			Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above			Percentage achieving of pupils level 5 or above		
	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science
1997	63	62	69	16	18	19	57	60	60
1998	65	59	69	17	17	16	65	59	56
1999	71	69	78	22	24	27	64	62	55
2000	75	72	85	29	25	34	64	65	59
2001	75	71	87	29	25	34	65	66	66
2002	75	73	86	29	28	38	67	67	67
2003	75	73	87	27	29	41	69	71	68
2004	78	74	86	27	31	43	71	73	66
2005	79	75	86	27	31	47	74	74	70

Key stage 2 and key stage 3 results for England since 1997

	Key stage 2						Key stage 3		
	Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above			Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above			Percentage achieving of pupils level 5 or above		
	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science	English	Mathematics	Science
2006	79	76	87	32	33	46	73	77	72
2007	80	77	88	34	32	46	74	76	73

[1] After 2002 this is referred to as "Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5"

[2] Figures for level 5 or above are not available prior to 2000.

[3] Revised figures.

[4] Not published.

Notes:

Only includes LA maintained schools whose key stage 2 and key stage 3 results were published in the achievement and attainment tables.

Including academies (new schools) and former City Technology colleges that have converted to academies.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in maintained schools in England were entered for *(a)* the IGCSE, *(b)* the International Baccalaureate and *(c)* the Cambridge Pre-U examination in the last period for which figures are available. [216630]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 717 students in maintained schools (excluding colleges) were entered for the International Baccalaureate. If sixth form and general FE colleges are included, this figure rises to 1,068.

International GCSEs are not accredited qualifications and so the Department does not hold information on the pupils that are entered for them. Crucially, the IGCSE does not meet the requirements of the statutory national curriculum and so no maintained schools should be entering their pupils for this qualification.

The Cambridge Pre-U examination is a new qualification for which teaching starts in September 2008. The first qualifications of this nature will be awarded in 2010.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to decide on the extension of the single level tests to all schools; and if he will make a statement. [216631]

Jim Knight: Single level tests are one of the elements of the Making Good Progress pilot, which is a two year pilot in over 450 schools running from September 2007 until July 2009.

The Children's Plan made clear that whilst our intention is to implement single-level tests on a national basis at the earliest opportunity, any decision to do so will be subject to positive evaluation from the pilot, and to endorsement of this approach from the regulator.

The pilot is being independently evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a final evaluation report is due in autumn 2009.

Extended Schools: Fees and Charges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collates on the *(a)* charging policies for extended school services and *(b)* the proportion of parents paying for (i) out of school services and (ii) holiday schemes through child care tax credit. [216879]

Beverley Hughes: None of this information is collected centrally. The Department has issued guidance on planning and funding extended schools, including advice about charging for activities, making clear what can and cannot be charged for. It is for schools to decide what polices to put in place. Information about the use of the child care tax credit is not broken down to this level.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children gained five or more GCSEs at grade C and above in the Peterborough City Council area in the last year for which figures are available. [216336]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 56.3 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in the city of Peterborough achieved five or more GCSE or equivalents at grades A* - C.

This information is taken from table 18 of the SFR, "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)", published in January 2008 and is available at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what programmes operating in the London borough of Bexley his Department has funded to encourage university applications; and how much his Department has spent on such programmes in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [215055]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to widening participation so that everyone with the potential to benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so.

The Aimhigher programme, funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Health, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), brings together universities, colleges and schools in partnership to raise the attainment levels of young people and their aspirations towards higher education. It supports activities such as visits to university, summer schools and mentoring schemes. In the 2007-08 academic year, Aspire, the Aimhigher partnership for London South East (which includes Bexley), is receiving £2.554 million. It is not possible to identify the amount spent specifically in Bexley.

In addition, universities have their own outreach programmes, some of which operate locally, whilst others extend across the country. Universities charging higher level fees have agreements with the Office for Fair Access concerning the additional support they will offer young people from poorer families, together with additional outreach.

National College for School Leadership

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which hon. Members have been invited to visit the National College for School Leadership since its inception. [214798]

Jim Knight: During the early set-up years of the National College for School Leadership, between 2002 and 2005, a public relations campaign was undertaken, under the leadership of its first chief executive, to raise its profile. Invitations to visit the college were sent to the following hon. Members:

Ian Cawsey
Tim Collins
Vernon Coaker
Valerie Davey
David Drew
Damian Green
Mark Hoban
Geoffrey Robinson
Barry Sheerman
Phil Willis
Tim Yeo

Since 2006, the hon. Member for Nottingham North, (Mr. Allen) in whose constituency the college is located, and the hon. Member for Huddersfield, (Mr. Sheerman) have been invited to visit. Since the college's inception, invitations have also been extended to hon. Members in ministerial posts in the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors.

Playing Fields: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Staffordshire have disposed of playing fields since 1998. [215825]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1998 the proportion of schools which have had applications approved to dispose of school playing fields in *(a)* the West Midlands is less than 1 per cent. and *(b)* Staffordshire is also less than 1 per cent.

Pupils: Hearing Impairment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues on assessing the ability of deaf children in examination in subjects where a listening component is generally required; and if he will make a statement. [216077]

Jim Knight: The Department does not issue guidance on detailed issues relating to examinations; it is for the qualifications regulators and the awarding bodies to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made, in the light of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. The Joint Council for Qualifications issues advice on access arrangements on behalf of awarding bodies.

The Government have made clear that the content and curriculum of qualifications should offer all candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding and display their strengths. When other reasonable adjustments have been considered but cannot be made, we would therefore expect the practice of exemptions from parts of an assessment, and the resulting enhancements of grades to continue.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many press officers the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority employed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [216207]

(2) how many press officers are employed by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator; and if he will make a statement. [216208]

Jim Knight: Since 2003, QCA has employed the following number of press officers in each year:

	Number
2003	6
2004	5
2005	5
2006	4
2007	4
2008	3

Note: No figures are available prior to 2003.

In addition, in 2008 the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator employs two press officers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's press office was in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [216209]

Jim Knight: The QCA budget for press office operations, excluding staffing, was as follows, in each year since 2002:

	£
2002-03	99,404
2003-04	82,326
2004-05	49,662
2005-06	63,394
2006-07	46,720
2007-08	87,561

The information is not available for 2001-02.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) staff who will *(a)* take voluntary redundancy and *(b)* move to the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator when the QCA is disbanded; [216070]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of compensation being paid to Qualifications and Curriculum Authority staff who are *(a)* taking voluntary redundancy and *(b)* moving to the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator; and if he will make a statement. [216071]

Jim Knight: The Government plan to legislate in the 2008-09 session to establish the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), which will be based in Coventry. Ofqual will have about 125 staff, many of whom will transfer from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. The QCA will not be disbanded but will evolve into a Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, which will also be based in Coventry.

As a result of the relocation, rather than the creation of Ofqual, QCA currently expects about 300 QCA and Ofqual staff to take voluntary redundancy. Staff will confirm their preferences for relocation, redeployment or redundancy in the autumn.

QCA estimates that £15.5 million will be paid to QCA staff who take voluntary redundancy as a result of its relocation to Coventry. No compensation will be paid to QCA staff who transfer to the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Qualifications and Curriculum Authority staff have *(a)* been made voluntarily redundant, *(b)* taken early retirement and *(c)* resigned in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [216072]

Jim Knight: The following numbers of QCA staff have *(a)* been made voluntarily redundant, *(b)* taken retirement and *(c)* resigned in each year since 2001:

	Redundancy	*Retirement*	*Resigned*
2001-02	1	0	51
2002-03	2	0	71
2003-04	19	3	74
2004-05	24	5	51
2005-06	16	6	64
2006-07	119	5	46
2007-08	28	2	41

QCA does not distinguish between early retirement and other retirement.

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of schools have had asbestos in their buildings in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area; and if he will make a statement; [215698]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken to remove asbestos from schools; and if he will make a statement. [215699]

Jim Knight: The majority of the many domestic and non-domestic buildings in England are likely to contain asbestos. In this schools are no different. Our best estimate is that some asbestos-containing materials can be found in around 70 per cent. of school buildings.

Health and Safety Executive guidance is clear that if asbestos is unlikely to be disturbed or damaged, it is usually safer to leave it in place and manage it. Routine condition surveys are rigorous enough to identify damaged material that could contain asbestos, and this would then trigger further action such as intrusive surveys and the repair or removal of any asbestos-containing materials.

Detailed information about the incidence of asbestos in schools is not collected centrally. Local authorities are responsible for school buildings under their management. The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 place a duty on those with legal responsibilities for maintenance of buildings to manage the risk from asbestos. This includes assessing whether there is asbestos in buildings and, depending on its condition, removing it or managing it.

The HSE provides advice and guidance on the management of asbestos in schools.

Schools: Finance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines his Department has issued to local authorities on the allocation of dedicated schools grant funding. [215734]

Jim Knight: The methodology underlying the allocation of DSG to individual local authorities can be found in the DSG Technical Note 2008-11 at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsg200811/

This methodology has been used to make allocations for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Local authorities retain responsibility for setting the overall level of the Individual Schools Budget and for determining schools' budget shares, subject to the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.

Each local authority's scheme for financing schools must contain a provision which sets out the frequency with which the budget share will be made available to governing bodies.

Local authorities will need to decide what level of contingency to establish within their central expenditure to allow relevant data changes to take effect within a financial year and meet any exceptional and unplanned cost pressures that may arise.

Schools: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total financial allocation per pupil was in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Hemsworth constituency in each of the last five years. [215733]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Hemsworth constituency is not available, as it forms part of the Wakefield local authority. The revenue funding allocated by Wakefield local authority to each maintained primary and secondary school is included in the following table.

Total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in the Wakefield local authority from 2004-05 to 2008-09

		Total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to local authority maintained primary and secondary schools (£)				
School name	*DCSF establishment number*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Primary school						
Ackworth Howard Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School	3023	3,180	3,300	3,570	3,830	3,740
Ackworth Mill Dam Junior and Infant School	2201	3,050	3,300	3,410	3,650	3,870
All Saints Featherstone CofE (VA) Junior Infant and Nursery School	3316	2,610	2,870	3,080	3,350	3,380
Ash Grove Junior and Infant School	2190	2,510	2,820	3,140	3,380	3,640
Badsworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School	3022	2,770	2,920	3,150	3,380	3,500
Bell Lane Primary (J and I) School	2202	2,440	2,650	2,800	3,000	3,200
Crofton Infant School	2040	3,000	3,210	3,430	3,740	3,760
Crofton Junior School	2039	2,420	2,700	2,910	3,110	3,280
Featherstone Girnhill Infant School	2088	3,600	3,970	4,230	4,660	4,830
Featherstone North Featherstone Junior and Infant School	2150	2,520	2,760	3,000	3,200	3,380
Featherstone Purston Infant School	2133	2,720	3,030	3,370	3,650	3,860
Featherstone Purston St. Thomas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School	3018	2,310	2,670	3,000	3,300	3,450
Featherstone Streethouse Junior Infant Nursery and Resources for Pupils with Physical Difficulties	2128	3,360	3,880	4,210	4,630	4,840
Fitzwilliam Primary School	2197	2,850	3,250	3,470	3,690	3,860
Havercroft Junior Infant and Nursery School	2194	2,660	3,070	3,350	3,730	3,850
Hemsworth Grove Lea Primary School	2199	2,520	2,870	3,060	3,200	3,300
Hemsworth St. Helens Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior and Infant School	3340	2,700	3,200	3,510	3,890	3,990
Hemsworth West End Primary School	2200	2,640	2,940	3,310	3,700	3,810
Infant School Moorthorpe Primary (J and I) School	2192	2,720	3,050	3,250	3,710	3,780
Kinsley Primary (J and I) School	2198	2,830	3,280	3,540	3,840	4,150
Northfield Primary School (with Autism Resource)	2189	2,760	3,060	3,300	3,600	3,700
Ryhill Junior, Infant and Nursery School	2195	2,890	3,200	3,480	3,770	3,920
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	3329	3,080	3,510	3,880	4,270	4,290
Sandal Endowed Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School	3339	2,360	2,640	2,950	3,240	3,380
Shay Lane Primary (J and I) School	2203	2,760	3,040	3,130	3,330	3,560
South Elmsall Carlton Junior and Infant School	2191	2,520	2,780	3,110	3,390	3,650
South Hiendley Junior Infant and Early Years School	2196	2,780	3,150	3,290	3,600	3,800
South Kirkby Burntwood Junior and Infant School	2188	3,830	4,320	4,580	4,810	5,070
South Kirkby Common Road Infant and Nursery School	2186	3,260	3,450	3,730	3,930	3,990
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Moorthorpe	3335	2,730	3,020	3,190	3,370	3,500
Standbridge Primary School	2157	3,280	3,760	3,850	4,180	4,510
Stockingate Mill Junior School	2187	2,700	3,010	3,240	3,610	3,780
Upton Primary School	2193	2,360	2,600	2,830	3,050	3,220
Wakefield Castle Grove Infant School	2164	2,730	3,030	3,160	3,460	3,580
Wakefield Hendal Primary School	2162	2,830	3,090	3,340	3,550	3,580
Walton Grove Infant School	2132	3,130	3,360	3,610		
Walton Junior School	2083	2,480	2,690	2,980		
Walton Primary School	3342				3,110	3,250
Secondary school						
Crofton High School—Specialists in Maths and Computing	4029	2,900	3,170	3,650	3,920	4,330
Featherstone Technology College	4042	3,220	3,480	4,130	4,780	5,180
Hemsworth Arts and Community College	4016	3,070	3,410	4,110	4,200	4,640
Kettlethorpe High School, A Specialist Maths and Computing College	4006	2,890	3,120	3,610	3,890	4,270
Minsthorpe Community College, A Specialist Science College	4030	3,060	3,270	3,800	4,000	4,530
St. Thomas a Becket Catholic College Specialist status in Humanities	4800	2,970	3,220	3,670	3,840	4,240
St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School and Sixth Form College	4604	3,050	3,320	3,820	3,980	4,530

Schools: Medical Equipment

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether requirements are placed on schools to have defibrillators on their premises and individuals trained to use them. [214558]

Jim Knight: The Department does not place requirements on schools to have defibrillators on their premises and individuals trained to use them.

Schools: Safety

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the risks to children's health and safety posed by fallen leaves from monkey puzzle trees in or close to schools. [216886]

Jim Knight: The Department has made no assessment of any risk posed by monkey puzzle trees in or close to schools.

Science: Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many mainstream maintained secondary schools entered one or more pupils for a GCSE in *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics in the latest year for which figures are available; [216498]

(2) how many mainstream maintained secondary schools offer three separate sciences at GCSE level. [216499]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 1,177 of the 3,200 maintained mainstream schools entered a pupil for GCSE Biology, 1,101 entered one for Chemistry and 1,092 entered one for Physics.

The Department does not hold information on schools that offer particular subjects at GCSE only on those that enter pupils. In 2007, 1,057 maintained mainstream schools entered at least one pupil for each of the three separate sciences at GCSE.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times he has met the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to discuss the new diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds since July 2007. [215148]

Kevin Brennan: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to discuss a range of issues including diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Specialised Diplomas: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on developing the online assessment system required for the new diplomas in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [216215]

Jim Knight: There is no online assessment system for diplomas, but the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has been developing an IT-based Diploma Aggregation Service to aggregate component results and enable the awarding of the qualifications.

The QCA has spent the following amounts in each year since 2005 on developing the Diploma Aggregation Service:

	£ million
2005-06	0
2006-07	4.1
2007-08	10.2

Specialist Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many high-performing specialist schools he estimates will lose that status as a result of the changes made to the designation criteria for such schools in March 2008; [214198]

(2) what the reasons were for the changes to the criteria used to award High Performing Specialist School status announced in March 2008. [214812]

Jim Knight: We estimate that as at the end of April 2008, the changes to the criteria for High Performing Specialist Schools (HPSS) introduced this year impact on six existing HPSS. These schools still have the opportunity to maintain the status if their 2008 results are above the necessary threshold.

We maintained the fundamental aspects of the 2007 criteria but raised minimum requirements for GCSE 5+ A* - C including English and mathematics. The reasons for these changes were: to reflect the introduction of the National Challenge, ensure that the top third of re-designated schools qualify for the HPSS programme and make the best use of available resources.

Students: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students received Learning and Skills Council funding in North Yorkshire in each of last five years for which figures are available. [214308]

Jim Knight: Details of student numbers receiving funding from the Learning and Skills Council at the level requested is not collected by my Department. This is an operational matter for the LSC as they determine these matters after discussions with local providers, partners and other organisations that are necessary to support the delivery of the Council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Lady with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Male Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school teachers were male in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [215697]

Jim Knight: Information on the proportion of teachers by gender is available from the Database of Teacher Records which is collected primarily for pensions administration purposes. Figures from this source are not considered sufficiently reliable to publish at the local authority level.

The information requested is available for England and has been published in table D2 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2007 (Revised) at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml.

The School Workforce Census planned for 2010 will provide more detailed information on the school workforce at local authority level.

Teachers: Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much sick pay was paid to teachers in each of the last five years; what proportion of staffing expenditure on teachers this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [215971]

(2) how many teachers have received sick pay for sick leave due to (*a*) stress and (*b*) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time sick pay was paid to a teacher in these circumstances in each year; and if he will make a statement; [215972]

(3) how many teachers have taken sick leave due to (*a*) stress and (*b*) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of serving teachers this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [215973]

(4) how many days of sick leave were taken by teachers due to (*a*) stress and (*b*) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last five years; what proportion of sick days taken by teachers this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [215974]

(5) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by teachers was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215975]

(6) what the average duration was of single periods of sick leave taken by teachers who gave (*a*) stress and (*b*) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [215976]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information for the number of full-time and part-time teachers taking sickness absence and the total number of days taken by length of absence is collected by the Department. The information available has been published in table 14 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2007 (Revised) at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml.

A provisional summary for the calendar year 2007 has been published in table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2008 (Provisional) at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml.

Teaching Methods

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to implement one-to-one tuition as provided under the Making Good Progress pilots in areas with high levels of educational under-achievement. [215255]

Jim Knight: The Government are already committed to the delivery of national one-to-one tuition for 300,000 pupils in English and 300,000 pupils in mathematics by 2010-11. National implementation of one-to-one tuition across the country, including in areas with high levels of educational under-achievement, will begin in 2009-10.

We are also developing plans to provide additional support and flexibility for one-to-one tuition in National Challenge schools: schools where less than 30 per cent. of pupils get five or more A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics. This will enable those schools to extend the tuition being trialled in the "Making Good Progress" pilot to pupils in key stage 4.

Tuition in the "Making Good Progress" pilot is offered to pupils according to educational need and targeted at a pupil's specific learning gaps as identified by their class teacher. Lessons learned from the "Making Good Progress" pilot will inform the design of the national tuition programme.

Teaching Methods: Voluntary Organisations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role his Department sees for the third sector in meeting the target of one-to-one tuition for 300,000 pupils in English by 2010-11. [214620]

Jim Knight: Currently there are no formal plans for the third sector to deliver one-to-one tuition for 300,000 pupils in English by 2010-11.

Within the Making Good Progress pilot, volunteers provide additional tuition to those pupils who have already received ten hours of one-to-one tuition in English and/or mathematics.

Volunteers are recruited through Community Service Volunteers's retired and senior volunteers programme (RSVP), and come from a range of backgrounds, including ex-teachers and head teachers. However, the model of one-to-one tuition within the Making Good Progress pilot currently uses qualified teachers only.

Lessons learned from the "Making Good Progress" pilot will inform the design of the national tuition programme, including the use of the third sector.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is conducting the review of the UK's reservation against Article 37(c) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and when the review will be published. [216821]

Beverley Hughes: The review has been conducted by officials from the Joint Youth Justice Unit and the Ministry of Justice, to enable Ministers with responsibility for youth justice in England and Wales to decide whether or not the reservation remains relevant to the secure estate for children and young people in England and Wales. The officials' advice includes legal advice: in accordance with normal practice, we are not planning to publish it. The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn, (Mr. Hanson), and I will announce our conclusion in due course.

The reservation against Article 37(c) applies to the United Kingdom as a whole. Any decision to withdraw it would also require agreement from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reservations the UK has entered to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols; and which of those reservations are under review by the Government. [216822]

Beverley Hughes: The Government currently hold two reservations to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The reservations are against article 22 and article 37(C). The Government are currently reviewing both reservations. The Government have no reservations against the Convention's optional protocols.

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants were made to Westminster City Council by his Department in each year since 2000-01. [216475]

Jim Knight: Revenue grant figures for Westminster local authority for the years 2000-01 to 2005-06 are provided in the following table. Figures are in real terms. The main source of revenue funding for years 2000-01 to 2002-03 was made up of the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) and for years 2003-04 to 2005-06 the Education Formula Share (EFS). Other revenue grants provided in the years 2000-01 to 2005-06 include the following: Nursery Education Grant (NEG), Class Sized Grant, Large Education Action Zones Grant (EAZ), Standards Fund (SF), Budget Support Grants (BSG), Teachers Pay Reform Grants (TGP), School Standards Grant (SSG) and funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). These grants were not available in all years; the notes provided with the table outline specifically which of these other grants were provided in each individual year.

Westminster local authority

£ million

	SSA/EFS	*Other Grants*	*Total*
2000-01	83.0	10.0	92.9
2001-02	84.8	12.6	97.3
2002-03	81.8	21.5	103.2
2003-04	88.1	22.9	110.9
2004-05	93.0	23.4	116.4
2005-06	98.2	23.1	121.3

Notes:

1. Grant Coverage:
SSA 2000-01 to 2002-03
EFS 2003-04 to 2005-06
NEG 2000-01 to 2002-03
Class Size 2000-01 to 2002-03
TGP 2000-01 to 2005-06
BSG 2000-01 to 2005-06
SSG 2000-01 to 2005-06
EAZ 2000-01 to 2004-05
SF 2001-02 to 2005-06
LSC 2002-03 to 2005-06
2. Price Base: Real terms as at 2006-07, based on GDP deflators as at 26.09.07
3. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council.
4. The 'Other Grants' figure includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19.
5. These exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
6. Rounding: The EFS, Other Grants and Total figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

The figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with the 2000-01 to 2005-06 figures quoted because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. This change does not affect the comparability of the other non-DSG grants identified above, although there are some year-on-year changes in terms of what grants were provided.

The 2000-01 to 2005-06 figures quoted above are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS), which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage from EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement, but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department has isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06. This is the basis for the 2005-06 baseline figure quoted; as described this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. The grants associated with the 2005-06 DSG baseline are the same as those given with the EFS figure above: Standards Fund, Budget Support Grant, Transitional Support Grant, School Standards Grant and LSC funding.

Revenue funding from the DSG, Standards Fund, School Standards Grant, Schools Standards Grant (Personalisation) and the Learning and Skills Council for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 for Westminster local authority are provided in the following table along with the comparable figures based on the 2005-06 DSG baseline. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms.

Westminster Local Authority

£ million

	DSG	*Other Grants*	*Total*
2005-06	82.4	23.3	105.7
2006-07	86.0	23.6	109.6

Westminster Local Authority

	DSG	Other Grants	£ million Total
2007-08	86.8	23.7	110.5

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms as at 2006-07, based on GDP deflators as at 26/09/07.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19.
4. DSG, Other Grants and Total figures have been rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Work Experience

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 419W, on work experience, how much schools have spent on education business partnership organisations in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [215496]

Jim Knight: Education business partnership organisations are funded via the LSC, with £25 million for 2007-08, to provide the supply of employers necessary to support work-related learning, including work experience placements. The figures for previous years were:

	£
2001-02	29,273,000
2002-03	32,312,000
2003-04	35,320,000
2004-05	6,134,000
2005-06	31,076,000
2006-07	25,668,000

Schools and colleges can choose to spend elements of their own funding on the services they provide over and above that distributed by the LSC. Most schools and colleges will pay for some of the costs incurred by education business partnership organisations in delivering their services, for example, to carry out health and safety risk assessments. However, there is no centrally held data about how much this amounts to.

Young People: Mothers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of teenage mothers aged under 18 years were in (*a*) paid employment and (*b*) full-time education in each year since 1997; [216555]

(2) how many teenage mothers attended schools at which more than 50 per cent. of the pupils were entitled to free school meals in the last period for which figures are available; [216667]

(3) how many and what percentage of teenage mothers were entitled to free school meals in each year since 1997; [216669]

(4) how many girls in their last year of compulsory schooling who were mothers did not sit any GCSE examination in each year for which figures are available. [216672]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Youth in Action Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what EU Youth in Action programmes are in operation in England. [216649]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1911W. The EU Youth in Action Programme has five separate activities which are Youth for Europe, European Voluntary Service, Youth in the World, Youth Support Measures, and European Co-operation in the Youth Field.

Youth Services: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for each London borough to support the provision of youth services in (a) cash and (b) real terms in each year since 1999-2000. [214325]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities receive funding from Government through the revenue support grant for youth services, but it is up to them to decide how much funding should be spent based on government priorities and local needs.

The following tables set out how much each local authority in London has budgeted for youth services in each year since 1999-2000.

The figures for 2008-09 are still undergoing validation by the DCSF and as such remain highly provisional and subject to change.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations—Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services—1999-2000 to 2008-09—(cash terms figures)—as reported by local authorities as at 25 June 2008

£ cash terms

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no.	Local authority name	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	London LAs	51,317,469	57,504,841	64,770,072	65,838,535	67,393,063
201	City of London	181,700	279,600	135,800	126,800	142,100
202	Camden	2,033,000	2,208,637	2,311,433	2,364,272	2,301,702
203	Greenwich	2,088,000	2,502,118	2,596,840	2,746,000	3,042,580
204	Hackney	3,569,700	1,206,420	0	0	1,076,530
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	748,071	1,103,726	877,725	1,180,726

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations - Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services - 1999-2000 to 2008-09 - (cash terms figures)¹ ² as reported by local authorities as at 25 June 2008

£ cash terms

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no	*Local authority name*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
206	Islington	409,430	5,983,442	5,558,808	6,211,496	3,159,950
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3,872,000	3,926,608	3,604,598	3,782,515	3,698,300
208	Lambeth	1,815,000	1,932,426	5,554,009	3,190,045	3,601,542
209	Lewisham	1,472,010	2,716,231	2,919,891	2,735,412	2,909,900
210	Southwark	2,551,000	2,823,000	2,893,000	3,054,009	3,341,705
211	Tower Hamlets	3,550,500	4,195,200	4,366,983	4,829,739	4,324,717
212	Wandsworth	0	0	2,978,270	3,160,400	3,208,580
213	Westminster	1,699,000	1,728,825	1,770,400	2,001,500	1,941,900
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,125,000	966,000	898,430	911,710	1,078,240
302	Barnet	2,230,000	2,261,342	1,829,061	2,302,465	1,797,612
303	Bexley	1,607,000	1,576,000	1,630,000	1,898,000	1,944,000
304	Brent	2,149,000	2,185,000	2,078,000	2,185,000	1,636,000
305	Bromley	1,046,000	1,124,977	1,119,930	1,073,402	1,110,838
306	Croydon	2,308,700	2,515,605	2,607,705	3,423,407	3,576,851
307	Ealing	1,664,600	1,529,700	1,551,000	1,514,600	1,648,800
308	Enfield	999,000	986,108	1,052,333	1,121,647	1,355,382
309	Haringey	1,353,000	1,500,720	1,896,400	1,967,279	2,096,722
310	Harrow	670,000	769,628	995,043	781,387	886,405
311	Havering	1,272,000	1,329,175	1,252,847	1,332,340	1,794,770
312	Hillingdon	1,418,000	1,446,973	1,473,203	1,777,011	2,132,885
313	Hounslow	727,500	748,000	768,000	829,184	819,840
314	Kingston upon Thames	709,000	761,458	977,354	1,001,764	1,089,978
315	Merton	534,160	552,277	575,729	605,730	806,830
316	Newham	1,119,000	1,209,872	1,386,727	1,526,181	1,185,100
317	Redbridge	1,425,000	1,620,371	1,769,916	2,020,491	2,003,813
318	Richmond upon Thames	701,000	751,200	646,500	693,800	698,700
319	Sutton	1,391,000	1,389,457	1,534,656	1,727,348	1,295,068
320	Waltham Forest	1,627,079	2,095,400	2,912,600	2,063,836	1,955,020

£ cash terms

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no	*Local authority name*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	London LAs	63,839,152	69,415,404	73,331,848	74,091,961	86,421,924
201	City of London	171,600	231,700	256,700	304,900	247,700
202	Camden	2,336,214	2,466,522	2,629,912	2,595,115	3,965,941
203	Greenwich	3,194,050	3,397,015	3,395,190	3,179,480	4,080,039
204	Hackney	1,169,314	1,502,948	2,453,600	2,802,748	2,834,026
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,214,721	1,316,821	1,363,648	1,405,502	1,447,462
206	Islington	3,349,528	3,300,600	2,685,981	2,398,040	2,955,800
207	Kensington and Chelsea	1,969,635	1,924,650	2,425,020	3,074,750	3,489,130
208	Lambeth	1,899,076	1,800,865	1,898,060	2,189,531	2,655,278
209	Lewisham	3,286,713	3,480,639	3,598,210	3,503,608	3,766,323
210	Southwark	4,173,125	3,733,916	3,678,265	3,956,305	3,575,586
211	Tower Hamlets	4,161,299	4,575,670	4,561,005	4,655,822	4,825,619
212	Wandsworth	3,313,410	2,946,640	3,098,440	3,274,330	3,287,338
213	Westminster	2,261,400	2,586,100	2,789,300	2,504,300	3,073,895
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,180,670	1,182,262	1,242,085	1,370,048	1,285,298
302	Barnet	1,525,781	1,261,563	1,368,685	1,485,016	1,745,380
303	Bexley	2,134,000	2,208,000	2,071,000	1,963,000	2,002,000
304	Brent	1,965,000	2,193,000	2,499,000	2,646,000	2,689,000
305	Bromley	1,152,701	1,138,995	1,395,682	1,447,101	1,610,782
306	Croydon	2,634,557	2,854,359	3,919,317	3,581,122	3,827,736
307	Ealing	1,645,900	1,694,000	1,757,400	1,868,267	2,034,817
308	Enfield	1,440,161	1,518,136	1,648,564	2,023,600	2,356,094
309	Haringey	1,959,700	2,053,807	2,197,157	1,859,839	1,936,960
310	Harrow	1,165,235	1,672,821	1,692,362	1,515,032	1,567,760
311	Havering	1,855,085	1,972,350	1,882,990	1,973,670	4,612,120
312	Hillingdon	2,284,148	3,072,659	3,127,453	2,005,070	2,253,644
313	Hounslow	871,978	1,326,274	1,316,672	1,318,405	2,107,125
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,223,955	1,205,955	1,254,041	1,323,694	1,434,626

£ cash terms

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no.	Local authority name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
315	Merton	800,020	847,028	1,048,973	1,188,494	1,299,420
316	Newham	3,363,787	3,312,363	3,590,590	3,465,087	3,932,663
317	Redbridge	1,905,448	1,971,531	2,033,948	2,194,841	2,323,812
318	Richmond upon Thames	736,700	950,500	1,078,000	1,407,100	1,599,813
319	Sutton	1,328,881	1,343,675	1,371,702	1,281,856	1,363,700
320	Waltham Forest	2,154,360	2,332,040	2,311,800	2,130,200	2,518,168

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations—Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services—1999-00 to 2003-04 [illegible] LA submissions as at 27 June 2008

£ real terms (2006-07 prices)

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no.	Local authority name	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	London LAs	60,907,000	67,468,084	74,132,252	75,085,651	72,687,652
201	City of London	218,070	237,673	155,429	140,728	151,264
202	Camden	2,416,470	2,588,078	2,648,518	2,623,906	2,482,529
203	Greenwich	2,481,844	2,032,318	2,972,199	3,047,644	3,281,613
204	Hackney	6,620,271	1,413,845	0	0	1,161,105
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	876,000	1,263,264	974,114	1,275,487
206	Islington	450,558	7,012,202	6,362,301	6,893,620	3,408,204
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4,602,340	4,601,727	4,125,623	4,197,807	3,058,848
208	Lambeth	2,157,190	2,264,077	6,356,811	3,840,364	3,884,488
209	Lewisham	2,749,064	3,183,245	3,341,945	3,035,808	3,203,221
210	Southwark	3,037,176	3,308,373	3,313,162	3,360,389	804,238
211	Tower Hamlets	4,220,204	4,016,800	5,021,047	5,360,123	5,192,973
212	Wandsworth	0	0	3,408,763	3,507,464	3,460,654
213	Westminster	2,019,470	2,026,070	2,026,302	2,221,297	2,094,461
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,337,200	1,132,069	1,028,293	1,011,871	1,162,989
302	Barnet	2,690,628	2,690,145	2,003,442	2,338,313	1,878,837
303	Bexley	1,900,116	1,846,969	1,865,608	2,106,431	2,086,725
304	Brent	2,554,150	2,560,677	2,378,364	2,424,949	1,764,828
305	Bromley	1,243,299	1,315,399	1,281,810	1,191,274	1,198,108
306	Croydon	2,744,280	2,948,124	2,954,634	3,799,353	3,857,857
307	Ealing	1,978,584	1,792,708	1,775,180	1,680,928	1,778,334
308	Enfield	1,187,434	1,155,654	1,204,442	1,244,822	1,461,864
309	Haringey	1,608,296	1,758,740	2,370,514	2,183,[illegible]	2,261,446
310	Harrow	790,377	901,954	1,138,871	869,416	956,043
311	Havering	1,511,028	1,557,706	1,433,039	1,478,653	1,918,772
312	Hillingdon	1,688,467	1,695,758	1,686,146	1,972,156	2,300,450
313	Hounslow	864,723	876,607	870,607	920,242	884,249
314	Kingston upon Thames	842,733	892,379	1,118,625	1,111,774	1,178,606
315	Merton	634,915	647,232	658,947	672,240	870,217
316	Newham	1,330,069	1,417,891	1,587,171	1,693,781	1,438,129
317	Redbridge	1,693,787	1,898,069	2,025,748	2,242,340	2,161,238
318	Richmond upon Thames	833,224	880,357	759,048	764,991	783,592
319	Sutton	1,653,374	1,628,383	1,736,711	1,917,039	1,946,812
320	Waltham Forest	1,933,083	2,455,672	3,133,092	2,290,479	2,108,611

£ real terms (2006-07 prices)

		Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services				
LEA no.	Local authority name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	London LAs	69,102,881	71,320,371	73,331,848	71,759,770	81,263,710
201	City of London	180,106	238,059	256,700	295,303	232,916
202	Camden	2,452,023	2,534,211	2,629,912	2,513,429	3,729,228
203	Greenwich	3,352,383	3,460,239	3,945,190	3,079,400	3,761,291
204	Hackney	1,227,278	1,544,193	2,453,680	2,714,526	2,064,873
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,274,936	1,352,959	1,363,648	1,361,261	1,361,068
206	Islington	3,515,568	3,391,178	2,685,981	2,322,557	2,779,464
207	Kensington and Chelsea	2,067,272	1,977,468	2,425,020	2,977,986	3,280,876
208	Lambeth	1,993,216	1,880,286	1,898,060	2,120,611	2,496,794

£ real terms (2006-07 prices)[4]

Budgeted net expenditure by London local authorities on youth services[1]

LEA no.	*Local authority name*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[3]
209	Lewisham	3,449,634	3,576,158	3,598,210	3,393,412	3,541,525
210	Southwark[2]	4,379,992	3,836,386	3,678,265	3,831,772	3,362,172
211	Tower Hamlets	4,367,580	4,701,240	4,561,005	4,509,271	4,537,595
212	Wandsworth	3,477,600	3,627,505	3,098,440	3,171,264	3,091,129
213	Westminster	2,373,500	2,657,070	2,789,300	2,425,472	2,890,425
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,239,197	1,214,707	1,242,085	1,326,923	1,208,583
302	Barnet	1,601,416	1,296,184	1,368,685	1,438,272	1,641,205
303	Bexley	2,239,785	2,268,594	2,071,000	1,901,211	1,882,508
304	Brent	2,062,408	2,253,183	2,499,000	2,562,712	2,528,503
305	Bromley	1,209,842	1,211,380	1,395,682	1,401,551	1,514,640
306	Croydon	2,765,155	2,942,691	3,013,337	3,468,399	3,590,291
307	Ealing	1,727,489	1,740,488	1,657,400	1,809,460	1,913,366
308	Enfield	1,511,552	1,550,798	1,648,564	1,959,003	2,215,467
309	Haringey	2,056,848	2,110,170	2,191,157	1,801,297	1,821,350
310	Harrow	1,222,997	1,718,728	1,692,362	1,467,343	1,474,186
311	Havering	1,347,044	2,026,477	1,882,990	1,911,548	4,336,839
312	Hillingdon	2,397,376	3,186,982	3,127,453	1,941,956	2,119,132
313	Hounslow	918,203	1,362,671	1,316,672	1,276,006	1,981,358
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,284,128	1,239,050	1,254,041	1,282,028	1,348,998
315	Merton	849,134	870,273	1,045,973	1,151,084	1,221,862
316	Newham	3,332,613	3,403,264	3,390,886	3,356,016	5,578,564
317	Redbridge	1,969,003	2,025,636	2,033,948	2,125,784	2,184,880
318	Richmond upon Thames	773,219	976,585	1,078,000	1,362,809	1,316,263
319	Sutton	1,394,788	1,380,849	1,371,702	1,241,507	1,282,362
320	Waltham Forest	2,261,154	2,396,038	2,311,800	2,256,852	2,365,047

[1] Youth service includes the following items of planned expenditure on the Youth Service and youth work:
Employees
Staff Training
Premises related expenditure
Transport related expenditure
Supplies and services
Third party payments
Support services
Youth work costs at residential and non-residential youth centres
Youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres
Grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work

[2] The 2001-02 and 2002-03 figures also include any Local Authority Youth Service provision that contributed to the delivery of the Connexions Service plus any Connexions Service specific funding

[3] 2008-09 data remains highly provisional and subject to change by the local authority

[4] Cash terms figures are converted to real terms (2006-07 prices) using the March 2008 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 July 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets have been set within her Department for the time for processing applications for leave to remain at each stage; and what the anticipated month and year is in which the application made by Mr Last Manzini (M1175940) in February 2005 will be decided. [217248]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 7 July 2008.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Scottish Executive on procedures in place for dealing with unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the UK who are resident in Scotland. [215674]

Mr. Byrne: A number of discussions between the UK Border Agency and the Scottish Executive at official level have taken place over the past 12 months about reforms of the support and management of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. These will continue as the reform progresses.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals from Zimbabwe have claimed asylum in the UK in each of the last 24 months; how many of these claims have been rejected; and how many rejections were made in whole or in part on the basis of a connection with Zanu-PF. [216970]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: The table gives the most recently published figures available and shows the total number of Zimbabwean principal asylum applications made between April 2006 and March 2008; and the total number of refusals following initial decisions. The table includes people who have been refused asylum but have been granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. The requested information on those refused asylum on the basis of connection with Zanu-PF is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 and the Q2 2008 Asylum Bulletin will be available on 21 August 2008 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, (and initial decisions[2] on applications, April 2006 to March 2008 by month, nationals of Zimbabwe

Principal applicants

	Applications	Decisions	Of which	Grants of		
	Total	*Total decisions*	*Grants of asylum*	*Humanitarian protection*	*Discretionary leave*	*Refusals*
2006						
April	140	210	10	0	5	190
May	110	215	20	0	0	190
June	115	120	10	0	0	110
July	140	100	10	0	*	85
August	70	80	10	*		70
September	75	125	5	0	5	120
October	75	80	5	0	0	75
November	85	80	10	0	*	75
December	75	75	5	0	*	70
2006 Q2 to Q4 total	885	1,085	85	*	20	980
2007						
January	105	85	15	0	*	65
February	100	110	15	0	5	95
March	120	115	10	0	0	105
April	130	120	25	*	*	95
May	105	155	15	0	*	140
June	140	135	20	0	0	115
July	150	160	25	0	0	135
August	130	105	20	0	0	85
September	165	100	25	0	5	70
October	255	125	45	0	*	80

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, April 2006 to March 2008 by month, nationals of Zimbabwe

Principal applicants

	Applications	*Decisions*				
		Of which		*Grants of*		
	Total	*Total decisions*	*Grants of asylum*	*Humanitarian protection*	*Discretionary leave*	*Refusals*
November	210	135	30	0	5	105
December	145	80	10	0	*	70
2007 total	1,755	1,425	250	*	20	1,155
2008						
January	180	110	25	*	*	80
February	185	145	30	0	15	100
March	280	120	30	0	*	90
2008 Q1 total	640	375	90	*	15	270

* = One or two

[1] Provisional figures rounded to nearest five.

[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

Source:

Immigration Research and Statistics

Borders: Personal Records

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will next meet her EU counterparts to discuss the use of passenger name record data held by airlines. [216860]

Mr. Byrne: The use of passenger name record data is expected to be discussed at the next Justice and Home Affairs Formal Council meeting on 24 and 25 July.

Ministers have already met their European Union counterparts on this issue several times in the past few months, including at the EU Justice and Home Affairs Formal Council in June. They have also discussed this topic with Members of the European Parliament, several of whom have visited the UK's central unit for the processing of passenger name record data.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expert groups her Department set up in each year since 1999. [213199]

Mr. Byrne: Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent, expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual "Public Bodies" publication. "Public Bodies" also contains some details on short-term advisory groups and task forces. Copies of "Public Bodies" dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

The Home Office published Public Bodies 2007 to supplement the central publication produced by Cabinet Office and will continue to do this on an annual basis. The document can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/public-bodies-2007?view=Binary

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department are authorised to work from home. [212523]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not keep a central record of those staff that are able or who have permission to work at home and obtaining this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Managers have discretion for deciding whether their staff work are allowed to work at home. The Department offers a range of flexible working patterns, including home working where this may be appropriate, to help staff balance both work and home responsibilities. Staff are allowed to work at home for a number of reasons and comprise both short-term and longer-term arrangements.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 897W, on departmental official hospitality, when she expects the list of hospitality received in 2007 by members of her Department's management board to be published. [215249]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in her Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212499]

Mr. Byrne: The following two tables detail the average hourly rates of pay for Departmental staff, broken down by grade. Table 1 is for permanent employees and

Table 2 is for non-permanent and contract employees. The figures cover staff in the core Department, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. All figures are taken from the May 2008 payroll.

The average pay figures are based on each employee's main salary payment (known as 'national pay'). They do not include additional allowances such as London Weighting payments.

Table 1 Home Office average 'national pay' rates by grade

Grade description	*Hourly average rate (£)*
Passport Offr 1 UKPA Nat	6.23
SGB 2 HO National	6.29
AA HO National	6.30
AA HO Gatwick	6.52
SGB 2 HO London	6.82
SGB2 HO Gatwick	6.91
AA HO London	6.93
Assist Immigration Off HO Nat	7.02
SGB 1 HO National	7.15
AO HO National	7.21
Typist HO London	7.31
Passport Offr 2 UKPA Nat	7.35
Typist HO National	7.42
CRB3	7.46
CRBE	7.53
AO Sandridge London	7.64
AO HO Gatwick	7.78
Personal SEC HO Gatwick	7.81
Passport Offr 3 UKPA Nat	7.83
Assist Immigration Off HO Gat	7.85
SGB 1 HO London	7.87
Assist Immigration OFF HO Lon	7.87
SGB2 Sandridge London	7.89
Typist HO Gatwick	7.89
Personal Secretary HO Nat	7.95
AO HO London	7.96
SGB1 Sandridge London	8.02
Passport Offr 1 UKPA Lon	8.31
Support Manager 3 HO Nat	8.61
Personal Secretary HO Lon	8.73
Technical Grade 2 HO Nat	8.77
Typing Manager HO Lon	8.77
Support Manager 3 HO Lon	8.88
Senior Personal Sec HO Nat	9.32
EO HO National	9.49
EOCRB	9.50
EO UKPA National	9.65
EO Sandridge London	9.75
Support Manager 2 HO National	9.77
Asst Scientific Off Sandridge	9.91
Passport Offr 3 UKPA Lon	10.05
SPS Nat CRB	10.10
EO HO London	10.11
Technical Grade 1 Sandridge	10.11
Non Exec Dir	10.19
Support Manager 2 HO Lon	10.22
Immigration Off HO Nat	10.46
EO HO Gatwick	10.52
Assist Scientific Off HO Lon	10.55
Senior Personal Sec HO Lon	10.69
Immigration Off HO Lon	10.73
Senior Personal Sec Sandridge	10.75
Asst Information Off HO Nat	10.86
Scientific Officer HO Nat	10.92
Immigration Off HO Gat	10.94
EO Accountant HO National	11.42
Psychologist HO Lon	11.47
Research Offr London	11.59
HEO Sandridge	11.66
EO UKPA London	11.70
HEO HO National	11.80
Assist Statistician HO	12.00
SO Scientific Officer Sandridge	12.08
Research Offr National	12.09
Assist Librarian HO Lon	12.24
HEO-CRB	12.26
PTO HO National	12.35
HEO UKPA National	12.41
Assist Information Off HO Lon	12.42
Economic Assistant HO	12.43
PTO Sandridge London	12.44
Scientific Officer HO Lon	12.56
HEO HO London	12.65
PTO HO London	12.85
Chief Immigration Off HO Nat	13.08
HEO D HO	13.09
EO Accountant HO London	13.11
Scientific Officer S/D HO Nat	13.17
HEO PHA HO Nat	13.22
Legal Officer L/S	13.49
Chief Immigration Off HO Lon	13.57
Higher Scientific Off Sandridge	13.75
Preserved HEO G OTS (N)	13.85
Info Officer HO Nat	13.87
Infor Officer HO Lon	13.87
Shadow HO HEO Lon	13.92
Librarian HO London	13.94
Higher Scientific Officer L/S	13.94
HEO HO Gatwick	13.94
HGR Scientific Off HO Nat	13.95
Chief Immigration Off HO Gat	14.02
HEO UKPA London	14.09
Chief Typing Mgr HO Lon	14.48
HGR Scient Off S/D RRA HO Lon	14.48
PTO Elec/Tcom/Cons HO Lon	14.63
HPTO HO National	14.72
HSO PSDB National	14.78
SEO UKPA National	14.78
HPTO PSDB National	15.08
HEO MHA/CCAB HO Nat	15.20
SEO HO National	15.22
HEO Accountant HO Lon	15.27
SEO CRB	15.31
HEO MIA/CCAB IT HO Nat	15.33
HPTO Sandridge London	15.33
Shadow HO SEO Nat	15.44
HPTO HO London	15.71
HEO MHA/CCAB IT HO Lon	15.71
SEO Sandridge	15.81
HGR Scientific Off S/D HO Nat	15.97
Immigration Inspec HO Nat	16.13
SEO HO London	16.20

Table 1. Home Office average 'national pay' rates by grade

Grade description	*Hourly average rate (£)*
Shadow HO SECU Lon	16.30
Senior Psychologist HO Lon	16.64
Immigration Inspec HO Lon	16.85
Senior Res Off HO Lon	16.89
Hgr Scientific Off S/D Sandridge	16.97
HPTO Elec/Tele/Const HO Lon	17.04
Senior Scient Off Sandridge	17.07
Senior Res Off HO Nat	17.10
Senior Scientif Off HO Lon	17.18
HEO MHA/CCAB HO Lon	17.27
SEO UKPA London	17.32
Immigration Inspec HO Gat	17.42
HEO (ACC) (NAT) UKPS	17.46
SEO Accountant HO Nat	17.56
Senior Information Off HO Lon	17.56
Hgr Scientific Off S/D HO Lon	17.74
Shadow HO SEO Nat	17.89
Snr Prof and Tech Off Sandridge	17.96
Senior Scientif Off HO Nat	18.00
Senior Librarian HO Lon	18.11
Shadow HO SEO Lon	18.16
SPTO HO National	18.22
SEO (ACC) (NAT) UKPS	18.30
SEO-PD	18.32
SEOMHA/CCAB HO Nat	18.38
Preserved SEO E RHA	18.41
SPTO HO London	18.47
SEO PHA HO Lon	18.48
Senior Scientif Off S/D HO Lon	18.66
SEO Accountant HO Lon	18.67
HTEO Sandridge	18.78
Senior Inf Officer Sandridge	18.78
Senior Scientif Off S/D HO Nat	18.88
SEO MHA/CCAB HO Lon	19.34
SEO MHA/CCAB IT HO Lon	19.55
SEO ACC CRB	19.73
SPTO Elec/Tcom/Const HO Lon	19.96
Grade 7 HO Gatwick	19.96
Senior Scientific Off Sandridge	20.17
Grade 7 UKPA National	20.48
Grade 7 HO National	20.72
Grade 7 CRB	20.87
SPTO PSDB National	20.89
GRADE 7 Sandridge London	21.64
SEO Accountant UKPA London	21.66
Grade 7 HO London	22.09
Grade 7 Economist Lon HO	23.29
G7 Economic Advisor Lon HO	23.49
Grade 7 UKPA London	24.15
Shadow HO Grade 7 Lon	25.09
Shadow HO Grade 6 Lon	25.83
Grade 6 CRB	26.47
Grade 6 National	26.70
Grade 6 UKPA National	27.02
Grade 6 London	27.38
Grades UKPA London	28.82
Grade 6 Sandridge London	29.25
Grade 6 PD	29.78
Shadow HO Grade 6 Lon	32.28
Senior CS (OS) Pay Band	32.58
Senior CS Pay Band 1	33.66
Supt Inspector (ASP)	35.13
Senior CS Pay Band 1	37.97
Senior CS Pay Band 1	39.45
Senior CS Pay Band 2	47.52
Senior CS Pay Band 3	53.25
Chief Inspector PS	55.42
Senior CS Pay Band 2	57.01
H.M Insp Constab	70.91
Senior CS Pay Band 3	71.33
Permanent Secretary	82.46
Senior CS Pay Band 3	83.61
H.M Chief Insp Constab	98.91

Table 2. Home Office average 'national pay' rates by grade (non-permanent or contract staff)

Grade description	*Hourly average rate (£)*
AA HO National	6.05
Non Exec. DIR	6.31
Sandwich Course Student Lon	6.37
AA HO London	6.43
Sandwich Course Student Nat	6.49
AO HO National	6.88
CRB3	6.91
Passport Offr 3 UKPA Nat	6.94
Sandwich Course Student Sandri	6.95
AO HO London	7.52
SGB 1 HO National	7.69
Passport Offr 1 UKPA Lon	7.99
Personal Secretary HO Lon	8.42
EO HO National	8.81
Personal Secretary HO Nat	9.09
EO HO London	9.59
Asst Scientific Off Sandridge	10.11
Research Offr National	10.64
Assist Information Off HO Lon	11.35
Research Offr London	11.64
Economic Assistant HO	11.70
HEO HO London	11.82
Higher Scientific Officer L/S	13.49
Senior Res Off HO Lon	15.08
SEO HO National	15.18
SEO HO London	16.66
SEO Sandridge	17.50
Senior CS (OS) Pay Band	18.73
Grade 7 HO National	21.58
Grade 7 HO London	23.27
Grade 6 National	25.21
Grade 6 London	29.66
Senior CS Pay Band 1	41.36
Senior CS Pay Band 2	43.42
Senior CS Pay Band 1	46.72
H.M Insp Constab	80.46

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review salary negotiations for public-sector employees in organisations within her Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer prices index to a point above 3 per cent. [214551]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles.

Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in her Department has been since 1997. [214653]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997 to 1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: EU Nationals

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals were deported from the UK in each of the last five years. [212750]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: Information prior to April 2006 is not available owing to known data quality issues. The UK Border Agency deported or removed over 4,200 foreign national prisoners in 2007, 525 of whom were European economic area nationals.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the deportation to Zimbabwe of *(a)* members of the Movement for Democratic Change and *(b)* those with strong links to the Movement for Democratic Change. [215268]

Mr. Byrne: We have no current plans to enforce returns to Zimbabwe.

Driving Under Influence: Testing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* breathalyser and *(b)* drug tests were carried out on drivers in each police force in each of the last three calendar years for which figures are available. [214751]

Mr. Coaker: Data held by the Ministry of Justice relate only to the number of screening breath tests taken for alcohol and the number positive or refused. The available information is given in the following table. Information is not collected centrally on subsequent evidential tests for alcohol.

Tests for drug driving can only be taken using a device of a type approved by the Secretary of State. No type-approved devices are yet available. Figures are not collected centrally on the tests which police carry out for impairment which may be due to a drug. These tests do not involve the use of specialist equipment.

The number of screening breath tests by period and police force area, England and Wales

	Total number of tests		
Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	27,300	22,000	15,800
Bedfordshire	7,800	6,700	3,100
Cambridgeshire	12,300	12,500	12,800
Cheshire	20,200	22,000	35,700
Cleveland	8,100	10,800	11,300
Cumbria	8,400	13,600	13,800
Derbyshire	31,000	17,700	16,000
Devon and Cornwall	10,700	10,400	13,600
Dorset	7,000	7,900	8,700
Durham	6,100	7,700	6,900
Essex	28,300	34,200	28,400
Gloucestershire	7,100	9,100	10,100
Greater Manchester	19,900	18,900	18,100
Hampshire	38,400	38,300	34,800
Hertfordshire	7,300	11,900	12,700
Humberside	8,600	8,700	10,000
Kent	32,000	31,200	31,700
Lancashire	10,200	13,000	16,400
Leicestershire	15,800	14,400	10,000
Lincolnshire	11,300	11,400	10,600
London, City of	700	1,100	1,600
Merseyside	5,000	8,000	10,600
Metropolitan Police	61,500	67,500	65,000
Norfolk	4,800	10,400	7,800
Northamptonshire	3,200	5,200	4,300
Northumbria	9,800	9,300	7,900
North Yorkshire	8,600	9,300	10,100
Nottinghamshire	8,200	7,900	7,200
South Yorkshire	6,500	13,700	10,300
Staffordshire	13,700	14,300	12,700
Suffolk	10,600	8,900	9,100
Surrey	9,500	9,600	8,300
Sussex	15,200	18,000	18,700
Thames Valley	15,400	14,600	13,500
Warwickshire	5,500	4,800	4,500
West Mercia	8,000	8,800	11,300
West Midlands	6,600	6,900	6,200
West Yorkshire	16,900	15,400	18,000
Wiltshire	7,400	7,200	8,700
Dyfed-Powys	6,700	6,900	7,300
Gwent	1,600	2,000	1,700
North Wales	24,200	21,800	19,600

The number of screening breath tests by period and police force area, England and Wales

Police force area	*Total number of tests* 2004	2005	2006
South Wales	16,700	16,300	17,100
Total	578,000	607,400	601,600

[1] Revised since publication of 'Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, 2004' bulletin

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students have been granted visas to study in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* nationality. [216197]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Please note that it is not possible to break down the data for the financial year 2003-04.

Student visas issued 2003-04

	Number
Total number of student visas issued in FY 2003-04	146538

Student visas issued 2004-08, by age

	Financial Year				
Age	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*
Over 18	159,258	167,559	183,391	187,940	698,148
Under 18	26,818	30,282	36,395	33,326	126,821
Grand total	186,076	197,841	219,786	221,266	824,969

Student visas issued 2004-08, by gender

	Financial Year				
Gender	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*
Female	85,911	92,162	99,265	100,537	377,875
Male	100,130	105,660	120,497	120,715	447,002
Unknown	20	17	12	10	59
Indeterminate	15	2	12	4	33
Grand Total	186,076	197,841	219,786	221,266	824,969

Student visas issued 2004-08, by nationality

	Financial Year				
Nationality	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*
Afghanistan	52	73	119	97	341
Albania	278	319	482	522	1,601
Algeria	309	266	434	497	1,506
Andorra		1	5	3	9
Angola	269	351	390	379	1,389
Anguilla				0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	7	10	24	18	59
Argentina	139	186	210	216	751
Armenia	142	141	194	187	664
Australia	764	757	771	877	3,169
Austria				1	1
Azerbaijan	451	470	523	587	2,031
Bahamas	39	75	101	84	299
Bahrain	580	548	637	645	2,410
Bangladesh	2,237	2,976	3,531	3,691	12,435
Barbados	118	177	158	132	585
Belarus	568	701	811	829	2,909
Belgium				1	1
Belize	4	16	17	19	56
Benin	31	36	39	26	132
Bermuda		1	1		2
Bhutan	18	14	17	15	64
Bolivia	91	123	138	90	442
Bosnia and Herzegovina	162	171	133	138	604
Botswana	257	260	357	388	1,262
Brazil	1,078	4,421	3,621	4,271	13,391
British Citizen	4	2	1	1	8
British Dependent Territories		0	0	1	1
British National Overseas	3,784	3,369	3,032	2,808	12,993
British Overseas Citizen	2	6	6	5	19
British Subject	1	0	0		1
Brunei	405	541	659	907	2,512
Bulgaria	682	644	653	1	1,980
Burkina	17	18	17	11	63
Burma (Myanmar)	287	348	318	407	1,360
Burundi	11	3	9	10	33
Cambodia	40	28	35	43	146
Cameroon	455	426	437	590	1,908
Canada	2,235	2,458	2,563	2,964	10,220
Cape Verde	8	8	10	45	71
Cayman Islands		2	0	1	3
Central African Republic	8	2	6	2	18
Chad	12	7	11	14	44
Chile	220	270	351	430	1,271
China	21,489	18,449	21,408	25,186	86,532
Colombia	2,673	2,782	3,367	4,660	13,482
Comoros	4	5	1	1	11
Congo	90	46	88	70	294
Costa Rica	2	17	24	28	71
Croatia	710	791	193	195	1,889
Cuba	45	46	70	52	213
Cyprus	52	53	20	17	142
Czech Republic	1	1			2
Democratic Rep of Congo	55	62	60	60	237
Denmark				0	0
Djibouti	5	8	9	12	34
Dominica	18	35	28	19	100
Dominican Republic	33	31	43	42	149
Ecuador	445	408	456	440	1749
Egypt	570	536	1,300	1,159	3,565
El Salvador	11	19	14	14	58
Equatorial Guinea	16	10	20	31	77
Eritrea	26	17	19	9	71
Ethiopia	152	156	121	135	564
Fiji	14	16	16	17	63
Gabon	41	30	56	40	167

Student visas issued 2004-08, by nationality

	Financial Year				
Nationality	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Grand total*
Gambia	444	449	431	405	1729
Georgia	569	540	655	742	2506
Germany		0	2	1	3
Ghana	1,829	1,010	1,236	921	4,996
Gibraltar				0	0
Greece				2	2
Grenada	21	40	47	27	135
Guatemala	12	19	20	21	72
Guinea	92	91	68	61	312
Guinea-Bissau	12	10	17	14	53
Guyana	74	87	91	75	327
Haiti	15	13	15	9	52
Honduras	4	10	8	17	39
Hong Kong	2,077	2,058	2,329	2,572	9,036
Hungary	1	1		0	2
Iceland		1		1	2
India	17,591	19,891	22,129	23,293	82,904
Indonesia	864	671	694	672	2,901
Iran	1,303	1,654	2,064	2,316	7,337
Iraq	130	255	320	447	1,152
Ireland		1	0	0	1
Israel	813	1920	663	316	3,712
Italy				1	1
Ivory Coast	213	103	159	131	606
Jamaica	227	224	185	212	848
Japan	8,750	8,559	8,053	6,486	31,848
Jordan	898	904	1,005	974	3,781
Kazakhstan	4,407	5,032	6,365	4,323	20,127
Kenya	1,074	875	985	931	3,865
Kiribati	1	1	1		3
Korea (North)	10	6	3	3	22
Kuwait	773	725	893	1,064	3,455
Kyrgyzstan	220	302	382	269	1,173
Laos	10	14	5	2	31
Latvia	1			1	2
Lebanon	414	395	390	330	1,529
Lesotho	10	11	21	10	52
Liberia	8	9	9	13	39
Libya	2,759	3,262	3,590	2,544	12,155
Lithuania	1			1	2
Macau	40	77	90	108	315
Macedonia	135	222	179	211	747
Madagascar	28	28	27	25	108
Malawi	315	501	399	554	1,769
Malaysia	4,784	4,642	4,668	5,473	19,567
Maldives	12	89	89	89	279
Mali	30	15	31	41	117
Mauritania	15	23	32	30	100
Mauritius	1,353	1,552	1,146	907	4,958
Mexico	1,120	1,276	1,344	1,574	5,314
Moldova	209	216	184	115	724
Monaco		2	3	2	7
Mongolia	185	208	321	931	1,645
Morocco	594	416	439	367	1,816
Mozambique	61	53	34	27	175
Namibia	43	31	45	30	149
Nauru		0	0	0	0
Nepal	428	621	927	1,095	3,071
Netherlands				1	1
New Zealand	155	155	141	212	663
Nicaragua	5	3	11	9	28
Niger	14	16	19	11	60
Nigeria	8,175	6,958	7,612	8,484	31,229
None	8	8	1	4	21
Norway			1		1
Oman	1,177	1,023	1,227	1,161	4,588
Pakistan	11,156	9,383	12,209	9,544	42,292
Palestinian Authority	94	80	121	77	372
Panama	7	24	23	35	89
Papua New Guinea	13	11	6	3	33
Paraguay	9	12	19	25	65
Peru	401	405	473	437	1,716
Philippines	1,708	1,272	907	2,050	5,937
Pitcairn Islands				0	0
Poland	2		0	0	2
Portugal	0				0
Qatar	432	532	712	925	2,601
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	17	12	10	7	46
Romania	855	963	682	2	2,502
Russia	10,338	14,014	22,368	20,947	67,667
Rwanda	50	59	61	74	244
San Marino	1	2	2	2	7
Sao Tome And Principe	25	49	46	5	125
Saudi Arabia	3,349	3,717	4,732	7,535	19,333
Senegal	69	74	124	154	421
Seychelles	1		2	2	5
Sierra Leone	234	217	275	192	918
Singapore	1,019	885	1,056	1,006	3,966
Slovakia	2	0	1		3
Solomon Islands	5	1	2	2	10
Somalia	15	3	4	4	26
South Africa	451	522	500	473	1946
South Korea	7,447	8,332	7,071	6,577	29,427
Soviet Union				1	1
Spain	1	0	0		1
Sri Lanka	1,823	1,930	2,572	2,516	8,841
St Helena	0				0
St Kitts And Nevis	9	12	20	11	52
St Lucia	55	97	81	62	295
St Vincent	18	53	62	40	173
Stateless (Art 1 1951 Convention)	59	41	37	28	165
Sudan	585	651	430	398	2064
Surinam	2	6	2	3	13
Swaziland	38	31	18	21	108
Sweden	0			0	0
Switzerland		0	2	0	2
Syria	668	772	877	615	2,932
Taiwan	9,214	9,575	9,415	6,647	34,851
Tajikistan	53	100	91	66	310
Tanzania	786	932	1,100	926	3,744
Thailand	4,875	5,095	5,042	4,325	19,337
Togo	36	14	31	20	101
Tonga		6	3	5	14
Trinidad And Tobago	381	439	468	483	1,771
Tunisia	125	144	272	472	1,013
Turkey	4,599	8,052	9,003	7,881	29,535
Turkmenistan	290	432	203	171	1,096
Turks And Caicos Islands				1	1

Student visas issued 2004-08, by nationality

	Financial Year[2]				
Nationality	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Grand total[3]
Tuvalu	0	1		0	1
Uganda	859	592	527	566	2544
Ukraine	1,678	1,370	1,717	1,738	6,503
United Arab Emirates	1,310	1,080	1,120	1,270	4,780
United Nations	4	2	2	11	19
United States	8,815	8,950	9,258	11,800	38,823
Unknown	97	117	116	89	419
Unspecified Nationality	183	142	130	255	710
Uruguay	13	17	22	27	79
Uzbekistan	414	830	1359	865	3,468
Vanuatu	1			0	1
Venezuela	125	378	519	785	1,807
Vietnam	1,401	1,437	1,575	1,941	6,354
Western Samoa	2	3	0	1	6
Yemen	321	275	303	285	1,184
Yugoslavia	1,510	1,460	1,149	1,112	5,231
Zambia	512	474	456	571	2,013
Zimbabwe	784	741	459	372	2,356
Grand total	186,076	197,841	219,786	221,266	824,969

Notes:

1. Data for FY 2003-04 is taken from published Entry Clearance Statistics
2. Data for April 2004 - March 2008 was taken from the Central Reference System on 2 July 2008
3. This data is provisional and unpublished and should be treated as such

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average age on entry of gap year students entering the United Kingdom to work in the education sector. [216760]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: Since 2005 the "Gap Year Entrant for Work in Schools" entry category has been in operation as a concessionary arrangement outside the immigration rules. It allows overseas students age 17-19 to take employment in a teaching/teaching assistant capacity in schools in the UK for 12 months prior to commencing their degree level studies overseas. The total number of visas issued in this category is as follows.

	Number
2005	794
2006	807
2007	803

While estimated future demand for visas is confined to broader entry categories (e.g. visitors, students, employment, settlement), the demand for gap year work visas has clearly been steady around 800 per year.

It should be noted that some gap year students also enter under the Working Holiday Scheme for young Commonwealth citizens, and under the concession for voluntary workers outside the immigration rules. However, no data are available for these entrants as it is not possible to distinguish them from others entering in these categories.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to alter the visa requirements for gap year students entering the UK to work in the education sector; and if she will make a statement. [216761]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: All our existing youth mobility-type provisions, including the concession for Gap Year Entrants for Work in Schools, are to be abolished later this year when the new international Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) is launched under Tier 5 of the Points Based System (PBS). Details of the Youth Mobility Scheme are set out in the Statement of Intent for Tier 5 of the PBS, which was published on 8 May. Participants in the new scheme will be free to do most work of choice, including work in schools.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students participating in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme did not return to their country of origin at the end of their placement under the scheme in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [213948]

Mr. Byrne: Since the phasing out of border controls in 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. That includes students participating in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme who subsequently failed to return to their country of origin at the end of their placement. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately, and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain, and ID cards for foreign nationals.

On 19 June 2008, the Government set out their plan to more robustly enforce the immigration rules by developing and strengthening partnerships with the police, local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules. Copies of the document are in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at.

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/?requestType=form&view=Search+results&simpleOrAdvanced=simple&page=1&contentType=All&searchTerm=enforcing+the+deal&Submit=Go

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214912]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department inclusive of its agencies does not contract directly for food supplies but procures catering services through wider facilities management (FM) or operational service contractors. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

When placing a contract with FM or operational services contractors sustainability factors are taken into consideration and specifications incorporate sustainability targets and appropriate terms and conditions with regard, to the procurement of food.

Immigrants: Tuberculosis

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries inbound passengers to the United Kingdom are tested for tuberculosis; and what percentage of passengers from each country were tested in the latest period for which figures are available. [214534]

Mr. Byrne: All passengers who do not possess a valid pre-screening certificate for tuberculosis and are seeking leave to enter the UK for more than six months, and who have travelled from a country where the tuberculosis incidence rate is higher than 40 cases per 100,000 of the population, are referred to the Port Medical Inspector for tuberculosis screening. Around 135 countries currently have this incidence rate of tuberculosis and can be found at the World Health Organisation website:

http://www.who.int/en/

Immigration Controls: France

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has given consideration to collaborating with the French Government in establishing and training a combined border and immigration force to be deployed at Brussels Midi, Paris Gare du Nord and London St Pancras International stations capable of checking passengers according to the criteria of both Governments, on a one-stop basis; and if she will estimate the financial effect of such an arrangement. [216396]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency works closely with French and Belgian authorities to promote mutual border security through the very effective border control arrangements at the juxtaposed controls. We have no plans to establish a body along the lines suggested. It is therefore not possible for us to provide an estimate of the financial effect of such an arrangement. This could be discovered only through the detailed examination of both the UK's and France's existing arrangements, which would involve a disproportionate cost to the business.

Immigration: Criminal Records

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many criminal record checks were carried out on *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals seeking to enter the UK in each of the last five years; [215004]

(2) how many criminal record checks were carried out on *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals seeking to enter Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [215005]

Mr. Byrne: From 1 July 2007, the UK Border Agency introduced the Home Office Warnings Index (HOWI) checking policy. This policy requires 100 per cent. checking of all documents against the HOWI. The HOWI comprises a watchlist of adverse information and intelligence drawn from various sources, including the police. The system is used by UK Border Agency staff for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime. It is long-standing policy not to discuss either the specific data held on the watchlist or the source of the data, as to do so would be counter-productive.

When UK Border Agency staff require a passenger to submit to further examination, part of the officers' inquiries may include checking the passenger's details against the Police National Computer (PNC). For example, that may happen when there is evidence to suggest that the individual has previously committed a criminal offence, or there is evidence to suggest that the individual is currently engaged or is likely to be engaged in criminal activity.

Offenders: Deportation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances EU citizens who have been deported may be prohibited from returning to the UK for a set period; and if she will make a statement. [213953]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 June 2008]*: A deportation order requires the subject to leave the United Kingdom, and prohibits re-entry to the UK unless or until it is revoked.

Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the cost of her visit to the United States in February 2008. [189089]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the current financial year are being compiled and will be published as soon as possible. The list for 2007-08 will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Police: Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with regard to how many police officers the incapability procedure was *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each police force in each of the last five years; and how many consequent dismissals there were in each force in each year. [215082]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

Ports: Medical Examinations

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were refused entry into the United Kingdom on the advice of port medical inspectors in each year since 1997. [214532]

Mr. Byrne: A port medical inspector's opinion could be one of a range of factors that influence an immigration officer's decision to grant or refuse entry to the UK.

The UK Border Agency does not collect statistics on the numbers of passengers who are refused leave to enter as a result of the advice of port medical inspectors.

UK Border Agency: Wales

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency will be based in *(a)* Pembroke Dock and *(b)* Fishguard when they become fully operational. [216637]

Mr. Byrne: We cannot disclose information relating to the number of officers that we intend to deploy specifically at Pembroke Dock and Fishguard, as this information could prove of significant value to those seeking to circumvent our border controls. To release such information would impede our ability to prevent and detect immigration and customs offenders, thereby prejudicing the security of the UK border.

TRANSPORT

Northampton Rail Services

11. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to provide faster train services to and from Northampton. [216865]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are aware of the growing demand in the Northampton area. That is why we are considering using the proposed Intercity Express trains to serve Northampton. The new trains will have a top speed of 125 mph, compared with the 100 mph top speed of the trains currently used on these services.

City Region Funding

12. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding public transport in city regions, outside the comprehensive spending review framework. [216866]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All the Department's regular discussions with Her Majesty's Treasury take place in the context of decisions made in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Street Works Regulations

13. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on progress by local authorities in utilising the street works regulations which entered into force on 1 April 2008. [216867]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities are now exercising their powers under the new regulations. The majority are using the new noticing system, and they have started giving fixed penalty notices for breaches of noticing requirements.

Two proposed permit schemes have been subject to public consultation, including a London common permit scheme covering Transport for London and 15 London boroughs. We have just received a number of applications from London authorities to operate this scheme on their networks.

Driving Instructors

14. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps she has taken to protect learner drivers from sexual assault by driving instructors. [216868]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Prospective Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) must provide enhanced level criminal record checks. Existing ADIs must undergo such checks when re-registering.

A driving instructor has Notifiable Occupation Status, so the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is informed of convictions.

DSA is seeking a suitable parliamentary Bill to allow the suspension of ADIs.

London-South Wales Main Line

15. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with Network Rail to persuade it to speed up its work on the main line between London and South Wales. [216869]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government are investing heavily in the Great Western Main Line, securing new trains and spending over £500 million on new platforms and lines to eliminate the bottleneck at Reading. The work must, however, be undertaken on a live railway in order to minimise inconvenience to passengers, which influences the pace at which work can proceed.

Stoke-on-Trent: Integrated Transport

16. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department has provided for the development of integrated transport systems in the Stoke-on-Trent area in the last 10 years. [216870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the nine years up to and including 2008-09, Stoke-on-Trent has received £40,822,000 in integrated transport block funding for capital investment. In the preceding year, 1999-2000, the authority received total funding of £4,529,000 including funds for road maintenance. It is for the authority to determine how far these funds should be spent on the development of integrated transport systems.

Concessionary Fares

18. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the national bus concessionary fares scheme. [216872]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department conducted cost benefit assessments of both recent extensions to the statutory concessionary fares scheme. These acknowledged that significant benefits, such as improved social inclusion, could not be easily quantified. However, both assessments concluded that the investments could offer value for money, even before taking account of the non-monetised benefits.

Train Overcrowding

19. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her latest estimate is of levels of overcrowding on trains; and if she will make a statement. [216873]

Mr. Tom Harris: Figures from the Office of Rail Regulation show that passenger numbers grew by 7.8 per cent. over the year to December 2007. The Rail White Paper, which we published in July 2007, described how the Government intend to work with the industry to ensure that the network can cater for that growth. At the heart of our plans is the £10 billion that we have committed ourselves to spending enhancing rail capacity between 2009 and 2014.

Airport Security

20. **Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve security at airports. [216874]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The measures in the National Aviation Security Programme exist to safeguard passengers from terrorism. They need to be effective and proportionate to the evolving threat, and to minimise burdens on passengers and the industry.

We keep these measures under constant review, in close co-operation with the industry. Lord West's review last year broadly supported the direction of travel and the pace of the work that we had in hand in this, as in other areas of transport security.

We have however set in train two important initiatives. One is the planned Transport Security Bill. This will allow us to place airport security planning and policing on a necessary legislative footing and further strengthen the functioning of the overall security regime at airports.

We have also commissioned an independent review into the current arrangements for personnel security in respect of applicants and existing staff in the transport industry, which includes aviation. This will report soon.

South Yorkshire Rail Services

21. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of rail services in South Yorkshire. [216875]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is responsible for determining the level of rail services required over the forthcoming 10-year period using its route utilisation strategy (RUS) process. The Yorkshire and Humberside RUS is currently under development and will identify changes to rail services that may be required in South Yorkshire over that period. The Department has, however, already procured a new service from Leeds to Nottingham, calling at Sheffield and Barnsley, to operate from December 2008.

Cycling

22. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department has provided for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* others to support the provision of training for cyclists in the last three years. [216877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To date, we have made around £4.3 million available to local authorities to fund Bikeability, the new national standard for cycle training. This includes £150,000 to pilot the new standard in 2006-07, £1.2 million in 2007-08 and £3.1 million in this financial year. In addition, we have made around £1.5 million available to the School Sports Partnerships to increase Bikeability training in schools over the same period. We will also be providing funding amounting to around £400,000 to enable British cycling coaches to deliver Bikeability training this year.

We have also invested around £1 million between 2005-06 and 2007-08 via a grant to the Cycling Tourist Club to build capacity in the cycle training sector.

23. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress her Department has made on encouraging more people to cycle in towns and cities. [216878]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We announced on 19 June a package of almost £100 million to support 12 new Cycling Demonstration Towns including the first large Demonstration City, Bristol. Half this funding is coming from the local authorities themselves, which is an encouraging demonstration of the level of support for cycling. They have joined the existing six, so there is now a demonstration place in every region, which will assist in the sharing of experience in increasing cycling levels through events such as regional workshops.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214899]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The amount spent on food, where recorded, for the last five financial years is tabled as follows:

	Total spend (£)
2003-04[1]	189,144
2004-05[1]	177,029
2005-06[2]	791,000
2006-07[3]	883,546
2007-08[2]	789,864

[1] Aggregate spend at: Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Driving Standards Agency and Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

[2] Aggregate spend at: Department for Transport London headquarters buildings, Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Rail Accident Investigation Branch, Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency and Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

[3] Aggregate spend at: Department for Transport London headquarters buildings, Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Rail Accident Investigation Branch, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency and Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Changes to local recording arrangements mean that data are not consistently available for all years requested, as noted in the table.

At departmental level, 48.5 per cent. of spend on food is estimated to be of British origin while 70 per cent. of food expenditure at our main London headquarters building is estimated to be of British origin.

Departmental Information Communications Technology

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value of her Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214702]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Departments and the agencies compile their accounts in line with Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

The value at the time of purchase for all IT systems is not easily accessible as all IT systems are not capitalised if they are below the threshold set by each entity. Collection of all these costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All IT systems that are capitalised are shown as follows. These costs are as at 31 March 2008 as per the draft annual accounts of each entity.

		£000
Entity	*Cost at time of purchase*	*Net book value as at 31 March 2008*
DfT (c)	51,684	13,161
VOSA	¹35,100	¹8,200
HA	124,735	40,884
GCDA	143	78
MCA	7,487	2,132
VCA	1,146	421
DSA	26,212	13,476
DVLA	¹195,100	¹61,400

¹ Includes hardware and software.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department takes to ensure which registered car owners pay vehicle excise duty. [216847]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) operates a comprehensive package of measures to ensure that vehicle excise duty is convenient to pay but very hard to avoid.

There are a variety of ways to license a vehicle, with online and telephone services now being used by a large and growing number of vehicle keepers. Those who fail to license their vehicles are subject to enforcement measures ranging from automated penalties from the vehicle record to direct enforcement action such as the wheel clamping, impounding and, ultimately, disposal of the unlicensed vehicle.

The most recent statistics estimate that the DVLA was successful in collecting 98.5 per cent. of all vehicle excise duty payable in 2007-08, demonstrating that this approach is proving effective.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicle or public service vehicle operators *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have the necessary facilities to carry out MOT tests. [217151]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A number of organisations have sought approval for facilities which can be used to carry out public service vehicle (PSV) and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) annual tests. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has authorised around 210 such facilities. Tests at these sites are carried out by civil servants from VOSA and the network includes sites that cater for both HGV and PSV annual tests or either type individually. These authorised premises are owned by either operators or commercial organisations carrying out maintenance, and some organisations will have more than one facility that is authorised to carry out tests.

VOSA does not hold data on how many operators may have the appropriate facilities to conduct HGV and/or PSV annual tests but have not sought authorisation. However, tests can be carried out only at sites which have been authorised.

Transport: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what allocation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency has made for consultancy fees in relation to (i) roads, (ii) railways and (iii) other matters in its budget for 2008-09. [208922]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport, including agencies other than the Highways Agency, has made budget allocations for expenditure on consultancy and professional services in 2008-09 as follows:

	£000
Roads	16,335
Railways	16,260
Other Matters	23,894

'Roads' includes road pricing and road vehicle safety and standards. 'Railways' includes Crossrail, LCR, Metronet and various aspects of the railways industry. 'Other Matters' includes all the transport Executive agencies, except the Highways Agency, together with the shared services project and other organisational consultancies.

The Highways Agency has no specific allocation within its budget for consultancy fees, but anticipates spending £2,000,000 during 2008-09 on administrative consultancies.

Transport: Voluntary Organisations

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to enable community transport groups to extend the services that they offer. [216876]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Transport Bill, currently awaiting its Report stage, contains provisions that would create opportunities for community transport groups to extend their services by allowing greater flexibility over the size of vehicle used and removing the restriction on paying drivers on community bus services.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Annual Leave

Lynne Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many years' service with the House is required for officers of the House to receive 40 days' paid leave; and how many people received *(a)* 40 days, *(b)* 35 to 39 days, *(c)* 30 to 34 and *(d)* 28 days' paid leave pro rata in the latest period for which figures are available. [216395]

Nick Harvey: Leave entitlements for staff of the House are set out in the Staff Handbook, which is available on the parliamentary intranet. In summary, most staff receive 28 days' paid leave per annum on appointment, rising to 40 days after 11 years' service. Staff appointed to the senior commons structure (SCS) receive 40 days' annual leave on appointment. For the current leave year (1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008), the leave entitlements for individual staff in post on 1 November 2007, including part-timers, are set out in the following table.

Leave due (pro-rata for part-time staff)	*Officers of the House (staff at SCS and pay band A)*	*Other pay bands*	*Total individuals*
40 days	179	484	663
35-39	60	313	373
30-34	70	441	511
28	42	356	398
Total	351	1,594	[1]1,945

[1] This figure includes all part-time and casual staff—the number of permanent full-time equivalent staff at 1 November 2007 was 1,707

Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many parliamentary identity cards or passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months. [215617]

Nick Harvey: The number of parliamentary photo-identity passes that have been reported stolen to the police over the past 24 months is 31.

Exact figures for the number lost over the same period are not available, but over the past nine years a total of 313 passes have been reported lost.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Olympics to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels her Office subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215652]

Tessa Jowell: My private office does not hold an individual subscription to any premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many firms based in Northern Ireland have made unsuccessful bids for contracts through the Olympic Delivery Authority. [215286]

Tessa Jowell: To date, five businesses registered in Northern Ireland have responded to Invitations to Tender for Olympic Delivery Authority contracts above the *Official Journal* of the European Union threshold (according to EU legislation, all contracts from the public sector which are valued above a certain threshold must be published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union). Of these, three businesses have not been awarded contracts, and two are currently involved in live tenders.

For contracts below the OJEU threshold, six Northern Ireland businesses are at the Invitation to Tender stage in live procurements.

The London 2012 Business Network has been developed to open up opportunities in the London 2012 supply chains to businesses across the UK. Businesses in every constituency should be encouraged to sign up and get the support they need to compete for and win London 2012-related business.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on *(a)* the application of the public value tests to the BBC's proposals for (i) local video news services and (ii) education sites and *(b)* the preparation of market input assessments of such proposals. [216986]

Andy Burnham: I have had no such discussions. This is a matter for the BBC Trust and there is no provision for Government to intervene.

BBC: Internet

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the market for advertising on UK-based news websites of the sale of advertising on bbc.com. [216988]

Andy Burnham: I have not made any such assessment. This is a matter for the BBC Trust and there is no provision for Government to intervene.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what IT contracts his Departments and its agency have entered into in the last two years. [215164]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has entered into one IT contract with Atos Origin for covering ICT services for seven years, signed in December 2007, with a value of approximately £40 million.

Since 1 July 2006, the Royal Parks Agency has entered into seven contracts with Atkins and one with OGC Buying Solutions/Global Crossing and these are detailed as follows:

1. Contract with Atkins for IT Disaster Recovery implementation, let February 2007, for one year, at a cost of £44,000
2. Contract with Atkins for IT Strategy and Governance Development, let April 2007, for three months, at a cost of £35,000
3. Contract with Atkins for ICT Programme implementation stage 1, let April 2007, for two months, at a cost of £100,000
4. Contract with Atkins for ICT Programme implementation stage 2, let August 2007, for four months, at a cost of £219,000
5. Contract with Atkins for ICT Programme implementation stage 3, let January 2008, for one year, at a cost of £721,000

6. Contract with Atkins for IT support services, let May 2007, for one year, at a cost of £7,000

7. Contract with Atkins for IT support services, let May 2008, for one year, at a cost of £7,000

8. Contract with OGC Buying Solutions and Global Crossing for a managed data communications service, let February 2007, for three years, at a cost of £218,000

Note:

All costs exclude VAT

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 856-58W, on departmental non-departmental public bodies, if he will publish each of the funding agreements so far agreed with his Department's non-departmental public bodies. [216505]

Andy Burnham: The funding agreements that have so far been agreed between DCMS and its NDPBs are listed as follows. These have been placed on the publications section of the Department's website at: www.culture.gov.uk/1205.aspx Others will be added as they are finalised.

Name of NDPB	*Period of funding agreement*
British Library	2008-11
British Museum	2008-11
Culture East Midlands	2008-09
Culture North East	2008-09
Culture North West	2008-09
Culture South West	2008-09
Football Licensing Authority	2008-11
Gambling Commission	2008-11
Geffrye Museum	2008-11
Horniman Museum	2008-11
Imperial War Museum	2008-11
Living East	2008-09
Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester	2008-11
National Gallery	2008-11
National Maritime Museum	2008-11
National Museums Liverpool	2008-11
National Portrait Gallery	2008-11
Natural History Museum	2008-11
Public Lending Right	2008-11
Royal Armouries	2008-11
Sir John Soane's Museum	2008-11
Tate Gallery	2008-11
Victoria and Albert Museum	2008-11
Visit Britain	2008-09
Yorkshire Culture	2008-09

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evidence was submitted to his Department to inform the Digital Working Group interim report published in June 2008. [216522]

Andy Burnham: None. The Digital Radio Working Group is an independent body which sought and took account of a wide range of information in developing its interim report. I look forward to seeing its final report by the end of the year.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the DAB+ system, *(b)* the DMB system and *(c)* the DVB-H system of digital radio transmission. [216535]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: As part of its remit, the independent Digital Radio Working Group which we have established has considered these and other technologies.

The Group's interim report, published on 23 June, concluded that DAB is the most practical route to digital migration in the UK, but that the aim should be for all future radio receivers to be capable of receiving analogue, DAB and other variants of the Eureka 147 family. I look forward to seeing the final report towards the end of the year.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has made at EU level on harmonisation in digital radio technology. [216521]

Andy Burnham: I have made no such representations. However, my officials have discussed the need for harmonised digital technology informally with the Commission and member states. We have recently raised the issue in the EU Communications Committee Broadcasting Issues Sub Group and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Ofcom have jointly written to WorldDMB, the organisation responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of Eureka 147 technologies, which has agreed to take forward the question of harmonised receiver profiles. This is in line with the interim recommendations of the Digital Radio Working Group.

Sports: Handguns

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in what circumstances people can practise in the UK for international pistol tournaments; and if he will make a statement. [215071]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Firearms (Amendments) Act 1997 prohibited the possession of handguns in England and Wales, and Scotland without the specific authority of the Home Secretary or the Scottish Ministers. It does not prohibit the possession of handguns in Northern Ireland.

The Home Secretary has agreed to use her powers under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 to allow a small squad of elite GB Olympic pistol shooters to train in this county ahead of the Olympics in 2012. Scottish Ministers have agreed, in principle, to exercise their powers in a similar manner in relation to Scotland. In Northern Ireland, pistol shooters are free to practise their sport provided that they have the appropriate firearm certificate from the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Home Secretary will also use her powers under section 5 to ensure arrangements are in place to allow competitors and officials at the Olympic games in London in 2012 to possess their special competition pistols for the duration of the games and for any special warm-up events.

Television: Hearing Impairment

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the implementation of requirements for subtitling of digital and satellite television services. [216828]

Andy Burnham: I have had no such discussions. The Communications Act 2003 sets minimum targets for the signing, subtitling and audio description of programmes by licensees, including digital and satellite television services. However, it is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that broadcasters meet the requirements contained in their Code on Television Access Services.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of British military engagement in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [216826]

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan was in each year since 2001. [217007]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the additional expenditure from the Defence Budget required for military operations and equipment in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09 which was additional to original allocations under those headings; how much has been allocated from the contingency reserve to fund such expenditure in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [216902]

Des Browne: The MOD does not make provision for the net additional cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is recovered from the Treasury Reserve. Between 2001-02 and 2006-07 the costs for these operations were:

Iraq

£ million

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-44	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Operations in Iraq		629	1,051	747	798	787	4,012
Expenditure on capital equipment		218	260	163	160	169	970
Total		847	1,311	910	958	956	4,982

Afghanistan

£ million

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Operations in Afghanistan (near cash)	187	236	36	58	148	560	1,225
Expenditure on capital equipment	34	75	10	9	51	178	357
Total	221	311	46	67	199	738	1,582

We have requested a total of an additional £3,374 million from the Treasury Reserve in the Winter and Spring Supplementary Estimates to cover the net additional costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007-08.

Audited outturn figures will be published in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts towards the end of July.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced in his Budget speech that the estimated cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan would be at least £2 billion in 2008-09.

Armed Forces: Council Tax Benefit

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on council tax rebate for service personnel during the last six-month roulement. [216238]

Derek Twigg: The amount spent on council tax rebate claims for the two major roulements, Iraq and Afghanistan, completed during the last six months, was £87,599.

Armed Forces: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is given to family liaison officers on the provision of advice to service families on their benefit entitlements; and if he will make a statement. [215992]

Derek Twigg: The payment of benefits remains a matter for the responsible Government Department or local authority, most often Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs or the Department for Work and Pensions. There are detailed rules covering eligibility for benefits, and advice on them is best provided by the relevant Departments, and authorities and their agencies. The Ministry of Defence works with these responsible bodies to ensure that their websites and guidance take into account the specific circumstances of Service personnel and their families.

Welfare support staff are instructed to refer families with specific queries, including benefits questions, to the most appropriate organisation to respond. This guidance given via specialist Ministry of Defence support staff and websites (such as the Service Community area of the Ministry of Defence website) is given to address certain aspects of benefits entitlement that are affected by Service life, such as moves overseas, although detailed advice should always be sought from the relevant department or agency. The Ministry of Defence also provides a worldwide information service (HIVE) which provides key information and signposting on the full range of Service community issues, including benefits.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on armed forces training, how many of his Department's Fighting in Built-Up Areas training facilities were designed to replicate Afghan compounds. [217031]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 675W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on armed forces training, whether further Fighting in Built-Up Areas training facilities other than those listed are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* planned. [217033]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are facilities under construction on Salisbury Plain related to fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA) which will enhance the training facility.

Additional FIBUAs are planned for the Stanford training area in Norfolk and the Sennelager training area in Germany, both of which are at the planning application stage. The latter is also currently at the environmental appraisal stage.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on armed forces training, in what year each of the Fighting in Built-Up Areas training facilities was constructed. [217034]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the year in which each fighting in built up areas (FIBUA) was either constructed or adopted as a FIBUA training facility.

Name	*Location*	*County*	*Year of build*
Edingham FIBUA Site	Dalbeattie	Dumfries	1940
Caerwent	Chepstow	Glamorgan	1940
Eastmere Village	Stanford TA	Norfolk	1982
Copehill Down	Salisbury Plain	Wiltshire	1989
Cilieni Village	Sennybridge	Powys	1991
Rype Village	Lydd	Kent	Ex Married Quarters, adopted in 1964
Whinney Hill	Catterick	North Yorkshire	Ex Married Quarters, adopted mid 1980's
Longmoor Urban Training Complex	Longmoor	Hampshire	Ex Married Quarters, adopted mid 1980's

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* other vehicles, *(c)* fixed-wing aircraft, *(d)* rotary-wing aircraft, *(e)* weapons systems and *(f)* unmanned aerial vehicles of each type were (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service at the latest date for which figures are available. [217008]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the *(a)* fewest, *(b)* most and *(c)* mean number of days taken to up-armour each Cougar vehicle to a finished Mastiff were in Mastiff tranche 1 after arrival in the UK; and what were the (i) fewest, (ii) most and (iii) mean number of days taken between completion of up-armouring and arrival at UK port of embarkation. [216247]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average time to upgrade the Cougar vehicle to a Mastiff for tranche 1 (including the up-armouring) was seven days. It is not possible to break-out the time spent specifically on up-armouring, as this work was conducted at the same time as other elements of the upgrade.

Once vehicles had been upgraded, they were moved to the UK embarkation point within 24 hours.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Sales

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what control his Department has over who the ultimate owners are of armoured personnel carriers being sold by his Department to Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Ltd; [216482]

(2) how many decommissioned armoured personnel carriers have been sold abroad in each year since 2006; [216485]

(3) how many Saxon armoured personnel carriers have been sold by his Department to Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Ltd. [216486]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department does not sell armoured personnel carriers to Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Ltd. The company acts as the selling agent for surplus MOD vehicles under the terms of an incentive-based contract. The receipts from sale are shared in an agreed proportion between the company and the Department.

All surplus equipment sold into the commercial marketplace is demilitarised and declassified. In that event, when vehicles are purchased from Witham to be exported outside the United Kingdom, purchasers are obliged to comply with normal UK export licence regulations. The Department has no control over the ultimate owner of the vehicles.

Between 1 January 2006 and 3 July 2008, 44 Saxon vehicles were sold on behalf of the Department. The Department does not hold information on which of those vehicles purchased to date remain within the United Kingdom and which have been exported.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department is selling armoured personnel carriers. [216483]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Saxon General War Role (Saxon GWR) is being removed from service and sold because it no longer meets the requirements of the Army, and has been declared obsolete.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign military delegations visited the Defence Export Services Organisation between *(a)* 1 August 2005 and 31 July 2006 and *(b)* 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007; and how many such delegations have visited UK Trade and Investment since 1 August 2007. [211855]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

From 1 August 2005 and 31 July 2006, 194 foreign delegations visited the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) to attend two major defence exhibitions, one in September 2005 and one in July 2006, and two Multi-Nation Inward Missions (MNIM), which enable potential foreign customers to witness demonstrations of defence equipment and visit UK defence establishments. Most delegations will have included military personnel. From 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007, 18 foreign delegations visited DESO on MNIM. There was no major defence exhibition during that time.

Since 1 August 2007, 74 foreign delegations have visited DESO and its successor organisation (from 1 April 2008), the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

Information on other visits to DESO and UKTI DSO, taken from available records, is shown as follows:

	Number of countries
1 August 2005-31 July 2006	85
1 August 2006-31 July 2007	68
Since 1 August 2007	40

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215194]

Derek Twigg: MOD press office employs 10 information officers who are full-time press officers with no managerial responsibility. The median annual salary (not including national insurance contributions or superannuation) for an information officer is £28,989 as at 3 July 2008.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times *(a)* Harrier GR7, *(b)* Harrier GR9, *(c)* Tornado GR4, *(d)* Tornado F3, *(e)* Typhoon and *(f)* Nimrod aircraft have been cannibalised in each year since 2003. [216253]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The removal of serviceable parts from one aircraft for use on another is a short-term, temporary measure to ensure that the maximum numbers of aircraft are available to the front line.

The number of these instances in each year since 2003 for the fleets requested is given in the following table. Harrier GR7 and Harrier GR9 cannibalisation statistics are not recorded separately, therefore the Harrier statistics are combined for both GR7 and GR9 marks. Typhoon cannibalisation statistics were not produced prior to 2005 due to operating under an industrial partnering agreement.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Harrier GR7and 9	1,119	958	530	505	862
Tornado GR4	3,009	2,558	1,863	2,048	1,838
Tornado F3	n/a	n/a	872	667	667
Typhoon	n/a	n/a	243	542	540
Nimrod MR2	582	482	510	224	344
Nimrod R1	41	29	48	61	41

For Tornado F3, statistics are not available for RAF Leeming and RAF Coningsby in 2003 and 2004. No statistics are available in any year for the four aircraft Tornado F3 fleet based at RAF Mount Pleasant, therefore these have been excluded.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Agusta 109A, *(b)* Agusta 109AM, *(c)* Apache Ah Mk1, *(d)* Gazelle AH1, *(e)* Lynx Mk7, *(f)* Lynx Mk9, *(g)* Lynx Mk3, *(h)* Lynx Mk8, *(i)* Merlin Mk1, *(j)* Sea King Mk4, *(k)* Sea King Mk5, *(l)* Sea King Mk6 (CR), *(m)* Sea King Mk7, *(n)* Chinook Mk2, *(o)* Chinook Mk2a, *(p)* Merlin Mk3, *(q)* Puma HC1, *(r)* Sea King Mk3 and *(s)* Sea King Mk3a there are in the helicopter fleet. [216972]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers and types of helicopters currently in the helicopter fleet are shown in the following table.

Helicopter type	*Number*
Agusta 109	4
Apache AH Mk1	67
Gazelle AH1	55
Lynx Mk 7/9	96
Lynx Mk 3/8	63
Merlin Mk1	42
Sea King Mk4/6C	42
Sea King Mk 5	15
Sea King Mk 7	13
Chinook Mk2/2a	40
Merlin Mk3	22
Puma HC1	38
Sea King Mk3/3a	25

The helicopter fleet has been taken to mean all aircraft in the Forward Fleet (at Front Line Commands for operational use and training) plus the Depth Fleet (including aircraft undergoing major maintenance, repair, modifications and trials). It excludes aircraft declared surplus and currently awaiting disposal.

RAF Lakenheath

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the United States withdrew from RAF Lakenheath the last of its nuclear weapons stored there. [216815]

Des Browne: It is both UK and NATO policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.

Unmanned Air Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he gave to purchasing off-the-shelf alternatives before commissioning the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle. [216230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Off-the-shelf alternatives were assessed during the Watchkeeper programme competition and system selection process, but they did not meet the capability requirements and were therefore discounted.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department procured the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle; what consideration was given to procuring off-the-shelf alternatives; and if he will make a statement. [216514]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Watchkeeper was procured to provide operational commanders with a day/night, all-weather capability to detect and track targets without the need to deploy troops in potentially sensitive or dangerous areas. Off-the-shelf alternatives were assessed at the time of competition, but did not meet the capability requirements and were therefore discounted.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Biodiversity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to encourage farmers to grow fruit and vegetables not traditionally grown in the UK. [216787]

Jonathan Shaw: Our policy is to encourage a thriving and market-focused domestic farming sector, while improving net environmental impact. In this context, if there is a market demand for fruit and vegetables not traditionally grown in the UK which can be met by sustainable production in the UK, we would welcome farmers exploring that kind of diversification.

Agriculture: Young People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 531W, on Agriculture: Young People, for what reason no further commitments of funding have been made; and if he will make a statement. [215060]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 July 2008]*: I responded to a written answer on 13 June 22008, *Official Report*, column 531W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper), on agriculture. I have since been advised that, in addition to the periods and amounts previously stated, funding of £51,500 for the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs has been committed for the period 2008-09.

Funding for the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs is allocated on a yearly basis.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to offer direct support to farmers who are able to prove that they have good on-farm biosecurity. [214323]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are currently running the 'Give Disease the Boot' campaign, which provides livestock owners and veterinarians with information on a range of diseases and how best to protect the health of their animals and the health of the farming industry.

DEFRA has produced information promoting the need for vigilance, and providing guidance about how to spot disease and prevent its introduction and spread. This is available on the DEFRA website.

Leaflets offering biosecurity advice to animal keepers are being distributed by DEFRA at the Livestock Markets Roadshow, which is touring 80 towns in England during 2008. Key messages promoting biosecurity and vigilance are also featured in publications such as *Farming Link*.

During exotic disease outbreaks, tighter biosecurity requirements apply, and rules are notified to the people affected by them.

Arable Farming

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the financial position of arable crop farming in the East of England. [214570]

Jonathan Shaw: Data on farm business incomes are provided by the annual Farm Business Survey. For non-corporate businesses, farm business income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings. For corporate businesses, it represents the financial return on the shareholders' capital invested in the farm business.

Average farm business income for cereals and general cropping farms was estimated at £78,000 and £74,000 respectively in the East of England Government Office region in 2006-07 (i.e. for 2006 harvest), compared to £66,000 for all farm types in the same region. For England as a whole, average farm business income for cereals and general cropping farms was estimated at £56,000 and £66,000 respectively in 2006-07, compared to £38,000 for all farm types.

Comparisons of these figures with figures for previous years are set out in the following table.

Average farm business income

£ per farm

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East of England Government office region				
Cereals	80,923	47,806	48,864	78,019
General cropping	90,101	72,936	48,570	74,450
All farm types	67,141	51,439	51,240	66,105
England				
Cereals	53,131	35,256	32,905	56,277
General cropping	65,872	46,229	37,346	65,788
All farm types	38,590	30,205	30,915	37,839

In 2007-08 (2007 harvest), incomes on cereals and general cropping farms are expected to have increased quite markedly, particularly on cereal farms. At the England level, income on cereal farms is expected to have risen by 45 per cent. and on general cropping farms by 27 per cent. These increases are due primarily to higher output prices compared to those of the 2006 harvest.

Cooperative Wholesale Society: Leicestershire

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates meetings have taken place between Ministers and officials from his Department and representatives of the Cooperative Wholesale Society since 1 May 2005 on the development of the Cooperative Wholesale Society's land in the Harborough district; where each meeting took place; and who attended each. [216591]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* We have no record of meetings between DEFRA Ministers or officials and representatives of the Cooperative Wholesale Society since 1 May 2005 about the development of its land in the Harborough district.

Deca-BDE

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations his Department has received on the use of Deca-BDE from *(a)* the Bromine Science and Environmental Forum, *(b)* Albemarle Corporation, *(c)* Chemtura, *(d)* ISDL, *(e)* Tosoh Corporation, *(f)* the European Flame Retardants Association and *(g)* the European Chemical Industry Council; [216320]

(2) whether his Department has undertaken studies of environmentally friendly flame-retardants which do not include Deca-BDE. [216321]

Mr. Woolas: Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) is a flame retardant used primarily in plastics and textiles applications. Over an extended period it has been subject to Risk Assessment action under the EU Existing Substances Regulation; the UK (the Environment Agency) was the rapporteur for the environmental elements of the risk assessment and France was the rapporteur for the human health aspects. As rapporteur the UK has received representations from a wide range of interested parties, including individual companies, industry associations, and NGOs. Contact was also necessary to gather the information needed to carry out the risk assessment.

The conclusion of the risk assessment is that while deca-BDE is very persistent in the environment, it is not on present evidence bioaccumulative, and it is not toxic. As a result it does not meet the criteria for formal risk reduction activity under the Existing Substances Regulation. However, because of its persistence and widespread presence in the environment the manufacturing industry, with encouragement from the Government, has instigated a voluntary initiative known as the Voluntary Emissions Control and reduction Action Programme (VECAP). New codes of good practice for sustainable use of deca-BDE in the plastics and textile industries have been issued by the manufacturing industry. The aim of the codes of practice is to ensure improved control of emissions.

A number of other flame retardants have been evaluated under the Existing Substances Regulation. In addition, in 2003 the Environment Agency commissioned a report on the Prioritisation of Flame Retardants for Environmental Risk Assessment. The aim of the study was to assess the use of and risks associated with flame retardants, and in particular to identify substances that might require detailed consideration in terms of their possible impact on the environment. It also considered issues concerning substitution of flame retardants. The study noted that little was known about the effects of many of the substances, including those sometimes proposed for use as substitutes.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213217]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA depreciates its assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in the Financial Reporting Manual.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214684]

Jonathan Shaw: The leases held by DEFRA and the principal associated public bodies that are due for renewal in the next four years are set out in the following schedule.

Property number	*Site name*
DEFRA	
68	Newlyn North Pier Store 6
84	Nympsfield Badger Research Unit
96	Lowestoft North Quay Ground Lease
108	Brixham New Fish Quay Store 6

Property number	*Site name*
114	Amble Warkworth Harbour Commissioners Offices
122	Nottingham Chalfont Drive Block 7
124	Preston Government Buildings Cop Lane
125	Shrewsbury Whitehall Monkmoor Road
127	Wolverhampton Woodthorne
147	Lewes Medwyn House
164	Huntingdon Chequers Court
167	Kirton Middlecott House
182	Leeds Government Buildgs Otley Road Wings 1-7 11 and 14
189	Skipton Foundry House
218	Bristol Bristol Fruit Centre
231	Leyton 14/19 Allen House
262	Hartlepool 103 Northgate
264	Scarborough West Pier 19
264	Scarborough West Pier 20
264	Scarborough West Pier Baiting Shed 28
275	Ashford Olantigh Road Wye
504	Hastings Rock A Nore Road
507	Northallerton Standard Way Unit 3
515	Dover Eastern Docks Freight Services Building
517	Bakewell Lumford Mill 10-13
517	Bakewell Lumford Mill Offices 14/15
520	Plymouth Fisheries Office
529	Northampton Beaumont House
532	Coventry Copthall House
537	Tilbury St. Andrew's House
543	Cardiff Llanishen
547	Llandrindod Wells
554	Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port Porta Cabin
554	Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port Porta Cabin
556	Grimsby Estuary House
567	Chichester City Business Centre
573	Ashford Epps Building
581	Maidstone 6-8 Albion Place 2nd Flr
583	Northallerton Unit 2 Standard Way
584	Taunton Riverside Chambers 2nd Flr
589	Gloucester Nympsfield Rd
589	Gloucester Nympsfield Rd
590	Harwich Hamilton House
594	Penryn The Seaways Commercial Rd
595	Plymouth Millbay Docks Ground Lease
598	Carlisle Watchtree FMD site Bore'hole
644	Reading Paddock Rd Unit 4D
662	Morecambe Heysham Portakabin
667	Dover Waterloo Crescent 1st Flr
673	North Shields Fish Quay Unit 2
674	Scarborough West Pier Baiting Shed 24
675	Banbury The Old Academy
685	France Coquelles Calais
693	Stoneleigh Park Old Childrens Farm Unit 9 Block 83
694	Uxbridge Market Centre Units 1C and 9A
696	Stafford Building 14 RAF
698	Ledbury Bronsil House
699	Wakefield Northgate-Bullring House
701	Peterborough Ham Lane House
704	Peterborough Northminster House
705	Wigan Pier House 1st Flr
705	Wigan Pier House Gnd Flr Mtg Rm
705	Wigan Pier House Gnd Flr Frnt Suite
705	Wigan Pier House Gnd Flr Store
707	Lyndhurst 1 Southampton Rd
717	Lewes Phoenix House-Office B
739	Peterborough Harvester Way Unit 22
742	Exeter Renslade House Level 2
743	Newcastle The Quadrant-Unit 7
749	Penzance Boswednan Barn C
751	Woking Dukes Court
756	Birmingham, Victoria Square Government Offices
757	London, Belgrave Road (prt 5th floor)
Forestry Commission	
	Exeter Suite B The Castle Mamhead
	Exeter Suite D The Castle Mamhead
	Exeter Suite H The Castle Mamhead
	Cambridge Great Eastern House
	Worcester Govt Buildings
	Bristol 42b High Street
Consumer Council for Water	
	Exeter Broadwork House
	Darlington Northgate House
Environmental Agency	
	Norwich Office
	Saxmundham
	Saxmundham
	Sutton Coldfield Wrens Court
	Thirsk Suite B Thirsk Business Park
	Willerby 1A Viking Close
	Carlisle Kingstown Depot
	Warrington Hoyle Street Depot
	Penrith Ullswater Road Depot
	Preston Walton Summit Depot
	Exeter Exminster House
	Bath Phoenix House
	West Malling Orchard House
	Timsbury Open Storage
	Amersham Office
	Abingdon Home Farm Flood Defence
	South Holmwood Depot
	Aylesbury Stonethorpe Farm
	Abingdon Manor Farm
	Crickhowell Units 7 and 8. Negotiating for new lease
	Cardiff Bay Chambers
	Newtown St. David's House
	Bristol Block 1 and 2 Gov Bldgs
	Bristol Rio House

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212496]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables provide details of the average hourly rate of pay for permanent and temporary staff in DEFRA as at 31 May 2008, for which figures are available.

(a) Average hourly rates of pay for permanent staff (includes fixed-term appointees)

£

Grade/grade equivalents	*London (hourly rate)*	*National (hourly rate)*
AA	9.99	7.91
AO	11.75	9.64
EO	14.22	12.60
HEO	16.57	15.08
SEO	20.09	18.24
Grade 7	26.57	24.34
Grade 6	32.48	29.88
SCS	41.65	38.37

(b) Average hourly rates of pay for temporary staff (relates to casual staff only, and not those who are being employed through an agency)

£

Grade/Grade Equivalents	*London (hourly rate)*	*National (hourly rate)*
AA		7.31
AO		8.95
EO	13.41	11.33
HEO	15.75	
SEO	19.47	19.68
Grade 7	24.45	
Grade 6	32.30	
SCS		

The data cover all staff in core-DEFRA and the Executive Agencies covered by the core-Department's pay arrangements (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Marine and Fisheries Agency).

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review salary negotiations for public-sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214548]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles: public-sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery, ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within the Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215623]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1 July 2007, the Department has issued public consultation documents across its sphere of activities as follows:

Area of activity	*Number of consultations*
Climate change and environment protection	36
Food and farming, animal and plant health	23
Natural environment and rural issues	27

These public consultations, which often include impact assessments, review the effect of regulation and related issues, and make proposals for amendment based on policy objectives and representations received. More detail is available from the DEFRA consultation site at

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp

In the main, DEFRA agencies do not have direct policy responsibility for general statutory instruments. However, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate also consults on proposals to amend legislation, including changes to fees levels. More information on current and completed consultations is available from the VMD website at

http://www.vmd.gov.uk/publications/consultations/previous.htm

The Department's annual simplification plans provide detailed information on ongoing simplification initiatives, including those involving reviews of, or amendments to, regulation, and on measures being pursued by DEFRA agencies.

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213127]

Jonathan Shaw: A baseline personnel security standard check is carried out, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines, on staff in DEFRA at the point of recruitment. Contract staff, consultants and agency temps employed by the Department are also screened to the same standard.

Checking the 'unspent' criminal records of employees is an integral part of that process. Recruits are required to complete a criminal records declaration form which, in accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, does not require them to reveal 'spent' convictions. At present, one in every five declarations is checked; but from October 2008, and in line with Cabinet Office recommendations, all declarations will be checked for unspent convictions through Disclosure Scotland.

When national security vetting is necessary for a particular post, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Order (Northern Ireland) 1979 provide for a check of both spent and unspent criminal convictions.

Depending on the outcome of these checks and the satisfactory completion of the other elements of the baseline personnel security standard process, recruits can take up post and be given access to DEFRA buildings and IT systems.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213147]

Jonathan Shaw: At present, and in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, one in five applicants are selected at random and checked for 'unspent' criminal convictions. In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, applicants are not required to declare 'spent' convictions, and therefore no checks are made in that respect. Unfortunately, figures are not readily available for each of the listed categories and periods concerned and could not be produced without our incurring disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the euro-changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215525]

Jonathan Shaw: The DEFRA euro changeover plan was last updated in November 2005. The changeover plan covers all organisations within the departmental boundary, including executive agencies. A copy of this plan will be placed in the Library.

Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made by local resilience forums in incorporating Environment Agency data on areas at risk of surface water flooding into their emergency plans; and if he will make a statement. [211906]

(2) how many local resilience forums have received information from the Environment Agency on the probability of flooding to critical infrastructure in their area; and if he will make a statement. [211907]

Mr. Woolas: Local resilience forums have set up sub-groups to consider the impacts of extreme weather and flooding. DEFRA has asked the Environment Agency to identify locations which are susceptible to surface water flooding, and to provide that information to the local resilience forums. This work is nearing completion, and the Environment Agency expects to have this information available for the local resilience forums from August 2008.

Most local resilience forums have received information from the Environment Agency on flood risk to infrastructure. The Agency is also providing information directly to infrastructure owners. The Cabinet Office has established a process for local resilience forums to be briefed on critical national infrastructure in their areas, so that its vulnerability to flooding can be assessed.

Forests: Nature Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to protect the native fauna of natural woodland, with particular reference to the red squirrel, under the terms of the Bern Convention. [216338]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Government are involved in an extensive range of measures to conserve our native woodland fauna.

In England, Bern Convention obligations are implemented through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The red squirrel is listed in Schedule 5 to the WCA and as such is protected from intentional killing, injury, taking, possession, sale or intentional destruction of any structure or place used for shelter.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes a Species Action Plan for the red squirrel which primarily aims to maintain self-sustaining populations of red squirrels, and wherever practicable expand red squirrel populations where their sustainability is threatened. This action plan is being implemented through a broad partnership of Government, statutory conservation agencies and the private and voluntary sectors.

The Isle of Wight remains a haven for red squirrels in the south of England. Forestry Commission grants have resulted in 210 hectares of new woodland planting to link fragmented habitat. The Forestry Commission woods, which are managed for red squirrel conservation, have benefited from this linking.

The Red Alert North England partners have designated 16 reserves and associated buffer zones where long-term survival of the red squirrel is considered most likely. The partners' Save our Squirrels project is delivering advice to landowners, co-ordinating squirrel control in the buffers, promoting Forestry Commission grants, raising public awareness and gaining further funding for squirrel conservation work.

The Red Squirrel Protection Partnership led by Lord Redesdale was awarded a three year £148,000 grant in June 2006 from the Rural Enterprise Scheme to support the control of grey squirrels in Northumberland to help protect the red squirrel reserves.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the Forestry Commission for England has made in developing a policy for the restoration of priority biodiversity habitats from woods and forests; and if he will make a statement. [216633]

Joan Ruddock: The Forestry Commission held workshops in 2007, which generated constructive engagement by stakeholders and gathered information on the context for the policy. The Forestry Commission, working closely with DEFRA and Natural England, has now established a process and timetable for completing development of the policy. This policy will set out how priority open habitats may be restored from woods and forests to help deliver objectives for biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, taking into account all of our aims for England's trees, woods and forests. The process will include a public consultation beginning in October 2008, and the Forestry Commission aims for completion of a policy by spring 2009.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215104]

Jonathan Shaw: There are currently 85 staff in my Department engaged in a range of communication related work, who can choose to have access to the Government Communications network (GCN). Staff working in the Department's Agencies do not generally have access to the GCN, but precise details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Grasslands: Nature Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what areas of *(a)* lowland dry acid grassland, *(b)* lowland raised bog and *(c)* lowland heathland have been (i) restored or (ii) re-created in England since the publication of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; and what the targets under the England Biodiversity Strategy are for the restoration and expansion of these habitats by 2015. [216635]

Joan Ruddock: Since the publication of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan,

(a) The Higher Level Scheme of Environmental Stewardship is funding the restoration or re-creation of 744 ha of lowland dry acid grassland.

(b) An estimated 3,500 ha of lowland raised bog is under restoration. It is not possible to re-create lowland raised bog except over very long time scales.

(c) An estimated 35,555 ha of lowland heathland has been restored and 6,244 ha has been re-created.

New estimates of progress, incorporating information from a range of sources and stakeholders, will be available in early 2009 following completion of the next triennial UK Biodiversity Action Plan reporting round.

The targets under the England Biodiversity Strategy for the restoration and expansion of these habitats from 2005 to 2015 are as follows.

Habitat	*Restoration target (ha)*	*Expansion target (ha)*
Lowland dry acid grassland	285	276
Lowland raised bog	1,000	0
Lowland heathland	34,086	6,100

Grey Squirrels: Pest Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons Warfarin is not permitted to be used for the control of grey squirrels during autumn and winter. [216367]

Joan Ruddock: The use of Warfarin is controlled by the Grey Squirrel (Warfarin) Order 1973, which permits the poisoning of grey squirrels for the purpose of tree protection. Grey squirrel bark stripping damage is seasonal, occurring from late April until the end of July. Squirrels will re-colonise woodlands from which they have been cleared within one to three months and therefore removing squirrels at any time of the year, other than just prior to and during the damage period, will have little effect on tree damage prevention. In accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, the product label specifies that Warfarin may be deployed to control grey squirrels between 15 March and 15 August.

Warfarin may only be used to control grey squirrels for tree damage prevention, and only 'grey squirrel bait' is approved for use against grey squirrels. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Warfarin cannot be used where red squirrels or pine martens are present.

No consideration has been given to extending the period in which Warfarin can be used. The Increased use of Warfarin would go against the stringent requirement in the UK Woodland Assurance Standard for pesticides reduction.

Institute for Animal Health

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the Institute for Animal Health research facility at Compton. [215369]

Jonathan Shaw: The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is sponsored, as are six other research institutes, by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), a non-departmental public body whose parent Department is the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Newbury (Mr. Benyon) on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 534W.

Leishmaniasis

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* companion animals and *(b)* wild animals have been diagnosed with leishmaniasis in each of the last 10 years. [216273]

Jonathan Shaw: Leishmaniasis is not a notifiable disease, so no definitive data is available for the total number of diagnoses made in companion or wild animals. However, in order to assess the implications of certain exotic diseases, DEFRA set up a voluntary exotic diseases surveillance scheme for dogs and cats across Great Britain, in consultation with the BVA (British Veterinary Association) and BSAVA (British Small Animal Veterinary Association). This scheme is known as the Dog and Cat

Travel and Risk Information scheme (DACTARI) and was launched in March 2003. Between 1 January 2003 and 30 September 2006, 19 confirmed and a further five suspected cases of Leishmaniasis in dogs were reported to DACTARI. Two of the confirmed cases were identified by veterinary surgeons in dogs living in Scotland; the remainder were from dogs living in England.

10 suspected cases of Leishmaniasis were reported to DACTARI in 2003, eight in 2004, five during 2005 (including one dog that was also diagnosed with Babesiosis), and one case was reported up to 30 September 2006. There were no reports for cats. Currently, there is no data available after September 2006. DEFRA does not undertake targeted surveillance for Leishmaniasis in wildlife, and no cases have been identified via the wildlife scanning surveillance system to date.

Nutrition

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support his Department is giving to the 5-a-day campaign for consumption of fruit and vegetables. [216790]

Jonathan Shaw: We work closely with the Department of Health on a variety of issues, including the 5-a-day campaign.

One of the ways we promote the programme is through the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), which has a key objective to increase the consumption of healthy and nutritious food.

In support of the objective, catering contractors are advised under the PSFPI to encourage the consumption of fruit and vegetables in accordance with the 5-a-day programme. Suggestions include displaying bowls of fruit in canteens or staff rooms to make it easy for people to grab healthy snacks on the run, providing more fruit and vegetables options as part of meals and using 5-a-day resources (which include posters, books and postcards) which illustrate portion size and what counts towards 5-a-day.

Additionally, the Catering Services and Food Procurement Toolkit of the PSFPI specifies that contractors shall show support for the Government's 5-a-day programme by, for example, increasing fruit and vegetables in composition dishes and signing up for the national 5-a-day logo for use on menus and promotional materials. There is also a case study on the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, part of the 5-a-day programme, in the "DIY guide to implementing the PSFPI — advice for practitioners", found on the DEFRA website.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent agreement by the EU to introduce a positive list of pesticides; and how many pesticides he expects will be prohibited in the UK as a result of this decision. [216794]

Mr. Woolas: The Agriculture and Fisheries Council reached political agreement on 23 June on a compromise text of the Slovenian presidency for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products (i.e. agricultural pesticides) on the market. The regulation would include a positive list of active substances approved for use in plant protection products in member states. We expect the text to be adopted as the common position of the Council and communicated to the European Parliament for its second reading in the autumn.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate recently published an assessment of the potential impact of these proposals on 286 active substances. It concludes that up to 15 per cent. of those substances could be withdrawn under the Commission's original proposals, which have been largely reflected in the presidency's compromise text, and up to 85 per cent. if amendments proposed by the Parliament in its first reading report were adopted.

A copy of the assessment has been placed in the Library of the House.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of Warm Front grants made to people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* south Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England was of the Warm Front scheme. [215717]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Values are calculated by scheme year, 1 April to 31 March, except for 2000-01 where the scheme commenced on 1 June 2000.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average waiting time for *(a)* heating measures and *(b)* insulation measures to be introduced under the Warm Front scheme in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) England in each year since the inception of the scheme. [215724]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Timelines are broken down by area as outlined above and are measured by scheme year 1 April to 31 March.

It has not been possible to provide the requested level of detail from the scheme's inception and so detail is provided from the commencement of scheme year 2005-06.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many back boilers have been replaced under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* south Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since the inception of the scheme. [215725]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House and illustrates all boiler replacements fitted by eaga through the Warm Front scheme split by area, as outlined above, and by scheme year, 1 April to 31 March, except for 2000-01 where the scheme commenced on 1 June 2000.

It has not been possible to separate out the number of replacement back boilers fitted through the scheme in the time allowed, nor is it possible to provide these data for the eastern region before 2005, where the scheme was previously delivered by Powergen. This only affects figures provided for England as a whole.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have received a Warm Front Scheme grant in *(a)* Jarrow Constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since its inception. [215726]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Figures are split by scheme year, 1 April to 31 March, except for 2000-01 when the scheme commenced on 1 June 2000.

TREASURY

Aviation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 861W, on domestic flights, if he will list the destination of each flight. [215387]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Child Benefit: EC Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many European Economic Area nationals claiming child benefit in respect of children living overseas have been investigated for fraud in the last 12 months. [215385]

Jane Kennedy: Statistical information on child benefit compliance interventions broken down by nationality of the individual is not available.

Debts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average level of personal *(a)* secured and *(b)* unsecured debt expressed (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a percentage of income was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [215873]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your questions on what the average level of personal (a) secured and (b) unsecured debt expressed (i) in pounds and (ii) as a percentage of income was in each year since 1997. (215873)

Table 1 shows average household sector (a) unsecured and (b) secured loans in (i) pounds and (ii) as a percentage of gross disposable household income

	Average unsecured loans (£)	*Average secured loans (£)*	*Unsecured loans as percentage of GDHI*	*Secured loans as percentage of GDHI*
1997	1,516	7606	16	79
1998	1,666	8044	17	81
1999	1,861	8664	18	83
2000	2,111	9359	19	86
2001	2,383	10,291	21	89
2002	2,659	11,636	22	97
2003	2,745	13,344	22	107
2004	3,064	15,038	24	118
2005	3,223	16,007	24	119
2006	3,305	17,744	25	129
2007	n/a	n/a	25	135

Source:

Secured loans—table A64 in UK Economic Accounts identifiers NNRQ, NNRR, NNRS and NNRT

Unsecured loans—table A64 in UK Economic Accounts identifiers NNRO and NNRK

Households' gross disposable income-table A38 in UK Economic Accounts identifier QWND

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average total personal debt servicing level as a percentage of income; and if he will make a statement. [215874]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what estimate has been made of the average total personal debt servicing level as a percentage of income. (215874)

Total household loans as a percentage of gross disposable household income for 2007, is estimated to be 160 per cent.

Source:

Total loans—table A64 in UK Economic Accounts identifier NNRE.

Households' gross disposable household income—table A38 in UK Economic Accounts identifier QWND.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216102]

Angela Eagle: Data for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Treasury and its agencies can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Information relating to the Treasury, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), OGC Buying Solutions and Debt Management Office for 2007-08 is not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2004 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [216103]

(2) how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216194]

Angela Eagle: Information for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Treasury and its agencies and can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

All three illnesses are grouped together as 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders'

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2004 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216700]

Angela Eagle: 7,765 days sick leave were taken in 2002 and 7,073 days in 2003. Data for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 and can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2002 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial Action Task Force

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Action Task Force's typology study on proliferation financing is expected to be published; what the UK's contribution to the study has been; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the study on publication. [216219]

Kitty Ussher: The Financial Action Task Force's typology study on proliferation financing was agreed at the FATF Plenary meetings in London on 20 June, and is expected to be published shortly via the FATF website. A copy will be placed in the Library on publication.

The UK was one of the 10 FATF member countries represented on the project group which prepared this report. The UK contributed to discussion and drafting by that group, and supplied background information and case study material.

Fuels: Local Authorities

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the use of red diesel by groundsmen employed by local authorities when driving on public roads between local authority-owned open spaces and recreation grounds; and if he will make a statement. [217130]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not to date received any formal representations on this issue.

Information on the circumstances whereby red diesel can be used in agricultural vehicles on the public road is contained in the Memorandum of Agreement published by HMRC in January this year and available on the HMRC website.

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what gas price assumptions were used in compiling budget forecasts for each Financial Statement and Budget Report since 1997. [216259]

Angela Eagle: The projections for gas prices, used in the North sea revenues forecast take into account the spot price for gas, long-term contract prices, futures prices and the expected movement in sterling oil prices.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings HM Revenue and Customs has made in the last three years through the sale of its buildings. [216750]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) change programme is designed to consolidate the estate following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise and to match the accommodation to future business needs. The overall aim of the programme is to provide better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer and although estate savings are important they are not the primary driver.

HMRC has made approximately a total of £69,000 in savings over the last three financial years through the sale of buildings it formerly owned. The savings figure comprises estimated saved costs of annual business rates and utilities. The savings figure relates to savings made through the direct sale of buildings by HMRC. Following the strategic transfer of the estate to the private sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley STEPS Contractor Limited in April 2001, ownership of most of the properties formerly owned by Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise transferred to Mapeley and HMRC therefore has minimal buildings left in its ownership to be considered as part of the change programme.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings HM Revenue and Customs has made in the last three years through the termination of leases on buildings it formerly leased. [216752]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) change programme is designed to consolidate the estate following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise and to match the accommodation to future business needs. The overall aim of the programme is to provide better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer and although estate savings are important they are not the primary driver.

HMRC has achieved approximately £2,294,000 in savings over the last three financial years through the termination of leases it formerly leased. The savings figure comprises annual rent; landlord service charge (where applicable), business rates and utilities. The savings figure given relates to estate savings made following the termination of leases directly held by HMRC and does not reflect any savings made under the strategic transfer of the estate to the private sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley STEPS Contractor Limited in April 2001.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices have been closed in each Parliamentary constituency since 1997. [213615]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was formed in April 2005 from the two former revenue departments, Inland Revenue (IR) and HM Customs and Excise (HMCE), in order to achieve synergies and efficiencies through modernisation of its business operations and rationalisation of its estate.

Information on how many HMRC offices have been closed in each parliamentary constituency from 1997 to March 2001 would be available only at disproportionate cost. Details of how many HMRC offices, and previously IR and HMCE offices, that have been closed in each parliamentary constituency since April 2001 has been deposited in the Library of the House. The relevant parliamentary constituency information could not be identified for five early closures as the historic information held could not be matched to constituency parameters.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many posts at Grade 6 and above there were in *(a)* Inland Revenue and *(b)* HM Customs and Excise before their amalgamation into HM Revenue and Customs; and how many posts at Grade 6 and above there are in HM Revenue and Customs. [216623]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs was created on 18 April 2005. The number of staff in posts at grade 6 and above in Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise immediately prior to this was as follows:

On 1 April 2005:

Inland Revenue—1,360 (1,327 full-time equivalent) staff in post at Grade 6 and above.

HM Customs and Excise—266 (262 FTE) staff in post at Grade 6 and above.

On 1 June 2008 there were 1,552 (1,515 FTE) staff in post at Grade 6 and above in HM Revenue and Customs.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff turnover rate was at each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [216804]

Jane Kennedy: The turnover or wastage rate is the number of people leaving the Department as a percentage of the average staff in post.

HMRC does not hold information on the turnover rate for individual locations in Scotland for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, or 2006-07.

The turnover or wastage rate in the office locations in Scotland for 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

Town	*Total turnover/wastage (percentage)*
Aberdeen	10.6
Ayr	1.4
Bathgate	5.2
Buckie	8.3
Coatbridge	0
Cumbernauld	1.7
Dumbarton	0
Dumfries	7.8
Dundee	4.5
Dunfermline	3.2
Dunoon	0
East Kilbride	4
Edinburgh	3.9
Elgin	0
Falkirk	0
Galashiels	5.9
Glasgow	3.1
Glenrothes	2.4
Grangemouth	3.5
Greenock	3.9
Hamilton	0
Hawick	9.1
Inverness	1.8
Irvine	3.1
Kirkcaldy	0
Lerwick	0
Livingston	7
Motherwell	3.8
Oban	0
Paisley	1.3
Perth	0
Peterhead	10.5
Prestwick	28.6
Rothesay	0
Stirling	9
Ullapool	0
Wick	0
Grand total	3.9

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff absentee rate was at each HM Revenue and Customs office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [216805]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available centrally and would cost HMRC a disproportionate amount of time and resource to obtain.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department had with representatives of senior management of the Large Business Service (oils) in HM Revenue and Customs before publishing the proposal to close the HM Revenue and Customs Pembroke Dock office. [216636]

Jane Kennedy: Work force change teams in HM Revenue and Customs have worked and will continue to work closely with all business streams within the Department including the Large Business Service. Initial proposals reflect current business plans and future accommodation requirements both for space and facilities.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the publication of HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change proposals on 11 June, how much spare capacity there will be in Ty Glees Carmarthen, following the transfer of staff from Ty Myoddin Carmarthen to Ty Glees. [216638]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC currently has two offices within the Carmarthen area, Crown Buildings, Picton Terrace and Ty Myrddin. The proposal published on 11 June is to retain Crown Buildings and vacate Ty Myrddin, but this is subject to consultation and detailed feasibility work and no decisions have yet been taken. Based on this proposal there would be no spare capacity in the building by 2012. If there was an increased business requirement it would be possible for more staff to work out of Crown Buildings through further optimisation of the existing space or by implementing desk sharing.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the publication of HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change proposals on 11th June, how many staff will be transferred from Pembrokeshire offices to Ty Glees in Carmarthen. [216639]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) currently has two offices in Carmarthen: Crown Buildings and Ty Myrddin. Proposals were published on 11 June 2008 which include the retention of Crown Buildings and vacation of Ty Myrddin. No decisions have been taken at this stage.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions HM Revenue and Customs officials have had with officials of the UK Border Agency on the co-location of their staff in Pembrokeshire. [216640]

Jane Kennedy: Estates teams in HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency are working closely together to identify the scope for mutually beneficial rationalisation of their respective estates across the whole of the UK. This co-operation was set up early in the life of the new shadow UKBA and will continue over many months in order to deal with the technical and legal issues that will need to be overcome to deliver practical estate solutions.

Tax Avoidance: British Overseas Territories

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to prevent or inhibit the use of British Overseas Territories in tax avoidance by UK-based (i) companies and (ii) individuals. [216751]

Jane Kennedy: There are a range of measures that help to combat tax avoidance, through British Overseas Territories and more generally. These include the tax avoidance disclosure regime, under which tax avoidance schemes must be disclosed to HM Revenue and Customs, in accordance with strict rules that enable the users of schemes to be identified.

In addition, the UK is negotiating tax information exchange agreements with a number of Overseas Territories, which should increase transparency and ensure that HMRC is able to obtain information on the income of UK tax residents arising from accounts and activities in those territories. The UK is also encouraging the Overseas Territories to conclude similar agreements with other countries, within the framework of the OECD Harmful Tax Practices initiative.

The Caribbean Overseas Territories have all concluded savings tax agreements with EU member states within the framework of the Savings Directive, introduced in 2005. This is specifically concerned with tackling tax evasion and provides for the exchange of information, or the transfer of withholding tax, on the savings accounts of UK and other EU residents in those territories.

Taxation: Rebates

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what budgetary provision his Department makes for the repayment of overpaid taxation; and by what means such provision is calculated. [216189]

Jane Kennedy: Where appropriate, the tax forecasts published in each Financial Statement and Budget Report and pre-Budget report are net of amounts that are expected to be repaid. However, HMRC make no budgetary provision for the repayment of overpaid taxes. When repayments to taxpayers become due, because they have overpaid, these amounts are netted off revenue collected by HMRC and the net amount collected is then paid over to the Consolidated Fund. Net revenue collected by tax and duty type is shown in the Department's Trust Statement.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding has been allocated to adult education in Hemsworth constituency in each of the last five years. [215877]

Bill Rammell: Funding for adult participation through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will reach nearly £3.6 billion per year by 2010-11, an increase of 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This will support on average over three million funded adult learners per year over the next three years.

LSC funding is allocated to further education (FE) colleges and providers to offer education and skills training to adults in response to the needs of both learners and employers. As FE providers often operate cross constituency borders, the following table provides information on adult funding in respect of the two main FE providers serving the Wakefield area: Wakefield college and Wakefield district council.

Adult funding for the main further education providers in the Wakefield district

	2003/04 (actuals)	2004/05 (actuals)	2005/06 (actuals)	2006/07 (actuals)	2007/08 (allocations)
Wakefield college[1]	3,520,098	4,043,563	3,683,988	3,981,982	4,200,475
Wakefield district council[2]	2,852,790	3,176,379	3,176,782	2,888,414	2,884,347
Total	6,372,888	7,219,942	6,860,770	6,870,396	7,084,822

[1] Total funding includes funding for 19+ further education provision, Train to Gain (which rolled out fully from 2006/07) and 19+ work-based learning. [2] Total funding includes funding for 19+ further education provision and adult safeguarded learning (includes adult and community learning, personal and community development learning among other provision). No Train to Gain funding information is available but the district council do deliver this provision as part of a consortium.

Other providers based in the Wakefield district deliver Train to Gain and Work-based Learning. The adult funding allocated to these providers has not been included on the basis that they will be delivering to learners across a much wider area—in some cases at a regional or national level. Including this information would not accurately represent the funding spent on adult education in the Wakefield/Hemsworth area.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost of an adult education course is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hemsworth constituency and *(c)* Wakefield District. [215878]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) use a national funding system comprising of national rates as the basis for determining the amount of public funding payable for courses funded through the Adult Learner and Employer Responsive funding models. The actual funding for an individual course is based on the number of hours required to complete the course. Those learners who do not qualify for full fee remission are expected to contribute to the cost of the course in line with the national fee assumption. For the 2007/08 academic year the national fee assumption is 37.5 per cent. of the national funding rate.

Adjustments are made to this value to take account of the higher costs of delivering certain subjects. The total public funding allocated to a college or provider will also take account of factors such as success rates and disadvantage (providing additional funding for learners from deprived areas). In light of the number of factors affecting the actual amount payable for each course it is not possible to provide an average level of funding for an adult education course.

Copyright

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress the UK Intellectual Property Office has made in its consultation on copyright exceptions; and when he expects it to report the results of the consultation. [217146]

Ian Pearson: The consultation arising from the Gowers review of intellectual property, is taking place in two phases. The first phase was launched in January this year, and closed in April. Some 250 responses were received. Most of the respondents fell into two distinct categories: either seeking to maintain existing levels of protection for rights holders, or wanting far greater use of exceptions to permit freer access to copyrighted materials.

The UK Intellectual Property Office is currently working towards the second stage of the consultation, which is expected to be launched later this year. This second stage is intended to set out any legislative changes which will give effect to the Government's proposals. Final decisions on the way forward will be taken in the light of the outcome of the second phase.

European Space Agency: Contracts

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the value of the contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK from involvement in European Space Agency projects. [216039]

Ian Pearson: ESA publishes quarterly figures on contracts placed, but does not publish information specifically on SMEs.

European Space Agency: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the value in sterling of industrial or governmental contributions to European Space Agency optional projects. [216040]

Ian Pearson: The estimated total value in sterling of governmental contributions to European Space Agency optional projects in 2008 is £124,827,000. The UK's participation in optional projects is carefully selected to address Government policy priorities such as climate change and technological innovation.

European Space Agency: Job Creation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of employment created in small and medium-sized businesses in the UK by European Space Agency projects. [216037]

Ian Pearson: There are no estimates available relating solely to small and medium-sized business employment on European Space Agency projects.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of employment created in the UK by European Space Agency projects. [216038]

Ian Pearson: There are no estimates relating solely to European Space Agency projects but in the 'Size and Health of the UK Space Industry' survey published by BNSC in 2006, analysis indicated that 16,200 people were already employed in the space sector and, taking indirect factors into account, the UK space sector contributes some £7 billion and 70,000 jobs to the economy.

European Space Agency: UK Contributions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the UK contributed to the European Space Agency in 2007. [216041]

Ian Pearson: UK subscriptions to European Space Agency (ESA) programmes are carefully chosen to address the UK's scientific and commercial priorities as well as to ensure that UK industrial capabilities are exploited to the full. The Government through the British National Space Centre works closely with ESA to ensure maximum possible returns to UK industry, including SMEs. The UK contributed a little over €259,456,000 to the European Space Agency in 2007.

Learndirect

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of Learndirect centres are on the premises of *(a)* companies and *(b)* other private sector organisations. [216770]

Mr. Lammy: The following figures are based on information available at the end of June 2008. Learndirect is subcontracted to 324 providers and, through these providers, Learndirect operates in 728 centres in a wide range of settings. 56.5 per cent. (411) of Learndirect centres are based in the premises of private sector organisations, of which 0.4 per cent. (three) are based in the premises of a company.

In order to demonstrate how we reach 100 per cent. I have included a full breakdown:

10.4 per cent. (76) are based in the premises of a charitable/voluntary/community organisation;

8 per cent. (58) are based in the premises of a public sector organisation;

22.9 per cent. (167) are based in the premises of a statutory body;

the type of location of 2.2 per cent. (16) of the total number of centres has not been provided to Ufi.

Should you have any other questions about Ufi or LearnDirect please do not hesitate to contact us.

Lung Cancer: Research

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding the Medical Research Council has provided for research into lung cancer in each financial year since 1997-98; what research has been funded by such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [216786]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council's (MRC) direct expenditure on lung cancer research since 1997 was as follows:

	Expenditure on lung cancer research (£)
1997/98	93,000
1998/99	268,000
1999/2000	184,000
2000/01	581,000
2001/02	1.6 million
2002/03	1.8 million
2003/04	2.1 million
2004/05	1.5 million
2005/06	1.6 million
2006/07	2.1 million

These figures do not include expenditure on other diseases that has generated findings relevant to lung cancer. In addition, the MRC funds a considerable amount of basic underpinning research which is excluded from these figures. In 2006/07, the overall MRC expenditure on cancer research amounted to £85.6 million.

MRC research on lung cancer includes funding to the MRC Clinical Trials Unit for the Clinical Trials in Lung Cancer programme and funding for screening and genetics research programmes at the MRC Cancer Cell Unit.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a UK-wide partnership between the Government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research among the 21 member organisations for the benefit of patients, the public and the scientific community. Member organisations include the Department of Health and MRC.

NCRI helps make cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at: www.cancerportfolio.org. Details of MRC research on all cancers including lung cancer can be found through this database.

In 2006, the NCRI's lung cancer Strategic Planning Group identified the need to strengthen research on supportive and palliative care requirements of lung cancer patients. Dedicated funds (up to £2.2 million) have now been pledged by NCRI partners (Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, MRC, Economic and Social Research Council, Scottish Government Health Directorates, Health and Social Care R&D Office) to support a call for proposals in research in this area. Applications have been received and awards are about to be made. MRC has pledged £240,000 to this initiative.

Science: Research

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on science research in each year since 1997; and what the projected spending is for each year to 2011. [216739]

Ian Pearson: DIUS investment in research through the Science and Research Budget and the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) recurrent grant for research is set out in the following tables:

£ million

	1996-7	*1997-8*	*1998-9*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-2*	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*
Total Science Budget	1,312	1,331	1,334	1,394	1,514	1,707	1,947	2,259	2,408

£ million

	1996-7	*1997-8*	*1998-9*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-2*	*2002-3*	*2003-4*	*2004-5*
Total Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE)[1]	638	704	829	835	867	888	941	1,037	1,079
Total DIUS Science Research[2]	1,950	2,035	2,163	2,229	2,381	2,595	2,888	3,296	3,487

	Estimated outturn			*CSR07 plan*		
	2005-6	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total Science Budget	3,040	3,246	3,382	3,554	3,715	3,970
Total Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE)[1]	1,250	1,344	1,415	1,444	1,509	1,634
Total DIUS Science Research[2]	4,290	4,590	4,797	4,998	5,224	5,604

[1] Includes support for Arts and Humanities Research.

[2] From 2005-6 includes funding for the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Source:

SET Statistics Table 2.1. Resources of Higher Education Institutions (Higher Education Statistics Agency). The Allocations of the Science Budget 2008-09 to 2010-11 (DIUS)

Service Industries: Research

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to fund research and development assistance to the services sector in 2008-09. [216654]

Ian Pearson: The research councils support research, training and knowledge exchange that impacts on the services sector. Over the next few years, the research councils will jointly fund a significant proportion of their research under six cross-council priority themes, including living with environmental change and the digital economy, and these are expected to be highly relevant to the services sector both public and private.

The Technology Strategy Board has recently completed call for research focused on the creative industries, and is currently scoping potential activities for the financial services and retail sectors, and investigating other parts of the service sector including logistics, tourism and leisure. Over the next three years, it will double the number of knowledge transfer partnerships and introduce new, shorter, knowledge transfer partnerships (from 10 to 40 weeks) that are particularly focused towards smaller companies, service sectors and creative industries that do not require a more in depth longer term project. It will also increase its investment in challenge-led innovation activities including innovation platforms such as assisted living that will be relevant to the service sector. The assisted living innovation platform, developed and delivered in partnership with the Department of Health and the research councils, aims to significantly advance the technology to meet the demand for independent living from those suffering from chronic long term conditions.

Research & Development tax credits are available across industry to any company undertaking qualifying as research and development. Evidence from 2005/06 claims shows that the service sectors are well represented.

UK Intellectual Property Office

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in the UK Intellectual Property Office's consultation on representative actions; and when he expects *(a)* the consultation to conclude and *(b)* the UK Intellectual Property Office to report on the consultation findings. [217021]

Ian Pearson: The UK Intellectual Property Office's consultation on representative actions concluded in 2006 and their findings have not been published to date. The Ministry of Justice, who are the lead Department on representative actions, are shortly to commence an interdepartmental review on this subject and the UK Intellectual Property Office are involved with this exercise. The future direction of this work, as well as the timing of any announcements, will need to be guided by the emerging findings of the Ministry of Justice's more general exercise.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Telecom: Billing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of BT's policy of imposing a charge on customers who choose not to pay bills by direct debit, with particular reference to vulnerable customers. [212639]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has examined regulatory concerns about communications providers' additional charges and draft guidance was published on 28 February at

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/addcharges.

The proposals to curb unfair additional charges levied by communications providers on consumers' bills are designed to ensure that extra charges are fair and that landline, broadband, mobile and pay-TV providers clearly market the true cost of their services. Ofcom expects to produce guidance in the autumn and once finalised, it is proposing to give providers three months to comply. Ofcom will then start an enforcement programme.

Deca-BDE

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has issued guidance on the use of deca-BDE; and if he will make a statement. [216319]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) is a flame retardant used primarily in plastics and textiles applications. Over an extended period it has been subject to risk assessment action under the EU Existing Substances Regulation; the UK (the Environment Agency) was the rapporteur for the environmental elements of the risk assessment and France was the rapporteur for the human health aspects. As rapporteur the UK has received representations from a wide range of interested parties, including individual companies, industry associations, and non govermental organisations. Contact was also necessary to gather the information needed to carry out the risk assessment.

The conclusion of the risk assessment is that while deca-BDE is very persistent in the environment, it is not on present evidence bioaccumulative, and it is not toxic. As a result it does not meet the criteria for formal risk reduction activity under the Existing Substances Regulation. However, because of its persistence and widespread presence in the environment the manufacturing industry, with encouragement from the Government, has instigated a voluntary initiative known as the Voluntary Emissions Control and reduction Action Programme (VECAP). New codes of good practice for sustainable use of deca-BDE in the plastics and textile industries have been issued by the manufacturing industry. The aim of the codes of practice is to ensure improved control of emissions.

A number of other flame retardants have also been evaluated under the Existing Substances Regulation. In addition, in 2003 the Environment Agency commissioned a report on the Prioritisation of Flame Retardants for Environmental Risk Assessment. The aim of the study was to assess the use of and risks associated with flame retardants, in particular to identify substances that might require detailed consideration in terms of their possible impact on the environment. It also considered issues concerning substitution of flame retardants. The study noted that little was known about the effects of many of the substances, including those sometimes proposed for use as substitutes.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 135-36W, on department co-ordination, when the inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty will next meet; and if he will make a statement following the outcome of the meeting. [215544]

Malcolm Wicks: The inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty intend to meet before the summer parliamentary recess. I will consider making a statement once the meeting has taken place.

Electricity Generation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the spinning reserve required for electricity generation from renewable sources at the level required to meet the EU's target for 2020 on renewable energy. [210685]

Malcolm Wicks: The System Operator (National Grid) ensures that there is sufficient reserve capacity ie flexible generating plant in responsive mode, on the system at any one time in order to manage the second by second balancing of generation and demand.

The reserve capacity that needs to be made available at any given time will vary dependent upon a number of factors, including the level of uncertainty of the demand forecast, the short term variability of wind output and the largest credible generation loss on the system. As the value of reserve required in the system varies half-hourly it is not possible to indicate with a single capacity figure the change in reserve requirements resulting from increased wind penetration compared with current levels.

A study by independent energy consultants SKM commissioned to support of the Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation available at

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46772.pdf

determined that increasing the volume of wind generation to the higher levels indicated as necessary to meet the UK's share of the EU 2020 target for renewable energy, does not lead to a requirement to increase the installed non-renewable capacity in order to ensure sufficient reserve is available to the operator, but that a greater proportion of that non-renewable capacity will be called upon more frequently than at present to manage variations in generation and demand.

The study indicated that the maximum half hourly generation output increase required to cope with demand variability is currently around 6,000 MW and that increasing wind generation does not modify this value (ie simultaneous large changes in demand and wind output are unlikely) but makes smaller changes more likely. The average half hourly increase in non-renewable generation output to cope with demand increases only is about 985 MW. This value increases to about 1,190 MW with wind generation based on around 35 per cent. of UK electricity demand being met from renewables.

Imports: Iran

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the use of goods imported by Iran since 2001 relating to the nuclear industry. [214164]

Malcolm Wicks: Iran is subject to very strict export controls, reflecting concerns about its nuclear programme. Export licence applications for strategically controlled items are carefully assessed by the Department, with advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, against the Consolidated and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This includes an assessment against national and international sanctions regimes and assessment of the risk of diversion to a weapons of mass destruction programme. While our main focus is on preventing the export of goods of concern at the licensing stage, end use monitoring can be undertaken where feasible and appropriate.

Nuclear Power: Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton North East of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 36, which foreign companies have invested in the United Kingdom nuclear industries; what the value is of investment in each case; and how many foreign nationals are currently working in the UK nuclear industries. [215022]

Malcolm Wicks: It would not be possible except at disproportionate cost to identify every foreign investment and every foreign worker employed in the UK nuclear industries. However, examples of companies which are owned or partly owned by foreign companies include those currently operating the low level waste repository near Drigg in Cumbria and the Magnox sites, and the bidders in the current competition to secure a parent body organisation for the Sellafield site in Cumbria.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said, regardless of nationality the owners of energy companies operating in the UK are subject to the same regulatory conditions as UK owned energy companies.

Renewable Energy: Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the planned increase in renewable energy by 2020 will be from nuclear sources. [215709]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* None. Nuclear and renewables should both be part of the low carbon energy mix the UK needs. But nuclear is not itself a renewable source of energy.

Renewable Energy: Seas and Oceans

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proposals he is *(a)* considering and *(b)* implementing on electricity generation from marine sources. [215447]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 July 2008]:* The Renewable Energy Strategy public consultation

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/strategy/page43356.html

launched on 26 June invites interested stakeholders and individuals to submit their ideas and views on the best and most cost-effective way of achieving greater use of renewable energy. Marine technologies, both wave and tidal, form part of this consultation as we look to the role renewable energy will play in the future. We are liaising with key stakeholders in marine technologies during the consultation and will take account of their input as we develop our Renewables Energy Strategy.

On more specific considerations, we are currently conducting a two-year feasibility study on whether the Government could support a tidal power project in the Severn estuary and on what terms. The study will assess in broad terms the cost, benefits and impact of a project including environmental, social, regional, economic and energy market impacts.

We are banding the Renewables Obligation to provide more support for technologies which are further from commercial deployment and this Department has recently launched a consultation

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page46740.html

on its implementation. This will include providing wave and tidal technologies with 2 ROCs per MWh.

This is in addition to our initiatives to support R and D through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's 'Supergen Marine' consortium, the Technology Strategy Board, the Energy Technologies Institute and the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund demonstration scheme.

Recently the Secretary of State granted consent to the South West RDA for wave hub, off North Cornwall a 20MW capacity wave energy testing facility and to Pulse Tidal Limited for Pulse Tidal Generation device at Upper Burcom in the River Humber a 0.15MW pre-commercial tidal stream generator device.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to amend the regulatory regime affecting connections to electricity supplies for lighting public places and street lighting. [215434]

Malcolm Wicks: Regulation of electricity connections falls to Ofgem.

Ofgem has reviewed competition in connections (2006-07) and the review included discussion of measures to open up competition in relation to un-metered connections

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Networks/Connectns/Pages/Cnnctins.aspx.

Ofgem also continues to work closely with distribution network operators (DNOs) and local authorities to improve the performance of DNOs in relation to a number of street lighting services. This includes the introduction of minimum performance levels in relation to certain un-metered street lighting services (fault repairs; new works; providing quotations).

Utilities: Billing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations his Department has received opposing surcharges imposed by utilities companies on customers who choose not to pay bills by direct debit. [212638]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* This Department has identified about 50 representations to Ministers on the issue of surcharges added to the bills of customers of communications companies who pay by means other than direct debit.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Pensioners

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples who lived in homes in each council tax band on the latest date for which figures are available. [215833]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of (a) single pensioners and (b) pensioner couples who lived in homes in each Council Tax band on the latest date for which figures are available (215833).

The table provided shows an estimate of the number of single adult retired households, and two or more adult retired households in each of England, Scotland, and Wales, by Council Tax band. A retired household is defined as a household where the income of all retired members accounts for more than 50 per cent of the household's total income. These estimates are based on data collected in the Expenditure and Food Survey over the period 2004/05 to 2006/07.

Separate estimates are shown for England, Scotland, and Wales because Council Tax bands are based on different property valuation bands in each country and therefore there is no strict equivalence between the bands in the three countries. Council Tax bands in both England and Scotland were based on property valuations for April 1991, whereas bands in Wales were revised using valuations for April 2003. In Northern Ireland, Domestic Rates apply rather than Council Tax.

As these estimates are based on a household survey, they are subject to a degree of sampling error. This is particularly true of the estimates for Scotland and Wales which are based on a smaller sample of households.

The total number of households in each Council Tax band shown here are different to the figures based on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) valuation list.

While the Expenditure and Food Survey estimates shown here are grossed to population control totals (expressed in terms of numbers of individuals), the estimated number of households in each band will not be exactly the same as the numbers from the VOA list.

Number of retired households[1] by Council Tax band, and country[2] 2004/05 to 2006/07

Thousand

	Type of retired household		
	Single adult	*Two or more adults*	*All retired households*
England			
Band A	835	403	1,238
Band B	648	412	1,060
Band C	552	527	1,079
Band D	467	575	1,042
Band E	195	369	563
Band F	90	200	290
Band G	48	154	203
Band H	8	14	21
Total	2,843	2,653	5,496
Scotland			
Band A	94	44	139
Band B	71	66	137
Band C	35	37	72
Band D	35	47	82
Band E	34	39	73
Band F	13	35	48
Band G	9	21	30
Band H	1	3	4
Total	293	292	585
Wales[3]			
Band A	41	15	56
Band B	48	27	75
Band C	38	31	69
Band D	43	41	84
Band E	13	21	34
Band F	8	10	18
Band G	2	9	12
Band H	1	2	3
Total	196	156	351

[1] A retired household is defined as a household where the income of all the retired members accounts for more than 50 per cent. of the total household income.

[2] These estimates are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which uses a sample of households, and therefore the number of households in each Council Tax band will not be strictly consistent with the figures based on the Valuation Office Agency valuation list.

[3] Data for Council Tax band I, the highest band which is used in Wales only, are unavailable.

Source:

Expenditure and Food Survey, Office for National Statistics

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households in each household income group who lived in homes in each council tax valuation band on the latest date for which figures are available. [215830]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of households in each household income group who lived in homes in each Council Tax valuation band on the latest date for which figures are available (215830).

The table provided shows estimates of the number of households in each of England, Scotland and Wales, by household income decile group and Council Tax band. These estimates are based on data collected in the Expenditure and Food Survey over the period 2004/05 to 2006/07.

Separate estimates are shown for England, Scotland, and Wales because Council Tax bands are based on different property valuation bands in each country and therefore there is no strict equivalence between the bands in the three countries. Council Tax bands in both England and Scotland were based on property valuations for April 1991, whereas bands in Wales were revised using valuations for April 2003. In Northern Ireland, Domestic Rates apply rather than Council Tax.

The income deciles used in producing these estimates are the same as those used in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. They are based on a ranking of households according to equivalised disposable household income. This ranking represents all households in the UK.

As these estimates are based on a household survey they are subject to a degree of sampling error. This is particularly true of the estimates for Scotland and Wales which are based on a smaller sample of households.

The total number of households in each Council Tax band shown here are different to the figures based on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) valuation list.

While the Expenditure and Food Survey estimates shown here are grossed to population control totals (expressed in terms of numbers of individuals), the estimated number of households in each band will not be exactly the same as the numbers from the VOA list.

Number of households by income decile group, council tax band, and country 2004-05 to 2006-07

Thousands

	Decile groups of all UK households ranked by equivalised disposable income										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*Households*
England											
Band A	632	735	717	604	517	458	353	258	166	62	4,502
Band B	456	490	440	487	452	456	444	330	356	196	4,107
Band C	382	396	393	430	457	471	459	508	451	330	4,276
Band D	322	258	291	328	355	368	465	494	550	548	3,981
Band E	112	96	110	105	140	181	200	294	329	420	1,987
Band F	70	38	42	41	58	74	105	107	143	308	985
Band G	24	19	19	15	26	36	40	73	106	299	658
Band H	1	2	1	2	3	4	3	9	10	57	92
All bands	2,000	2,033	2,014	2,012	2,007	2,048	2,069	2,074	2,112	2,220	20,589
Scotland											
Band A	61	69	63	68	56	42	31	15	12	2	418
Band B	58	69	68	80	75	52	58	34	29	9	531
Band C	39	27	31	37	34	48	37	42	33	7	336
Band D	18	28	27	30	26	40	40	43	35	21	309
Band E	16	10	14	22	23	20	44	53	51	26	278
Band F	14	10	9	9	11	18	10	21	18	29	149
Band G	4	4	3	0	9	4	8	14	12	48	106
Band H	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	8	13
All bands	212	218	217	246	235	224	226	224	190	150	2,140
Wales[1]											
Band A	34	31	26	20	25	13	9	6	5	1	172
Band B	44	39	45	45	45	31	13	21	9	4	294
Band C	20	28	27	29	35	27	30	19	16	3	236
Band D	25	27	31	28	27	29	32	25	31	19	275
Band E	10	9	17	12	14	18	9	15	28	12	142
Band F	5	4	2	0	5	3	8	10	14	10	61
Band G	1	0	4	2	3	2	3	8	5	10	39
Band H	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	8
All bands	139	138	152	136	155	124	104	104	112	62	1,226

[1] Data for council tax band 'I', the highest band which is used in Wales only, are unavailable

Note:

These estimates are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which uses a sample of households, and therefore the number of households in each council tax band will not be strictly consistent with figures based on the Valuation Office Agency valuation list

Source:

Expenditure and Food Survey, Office for National Statistics

Department for Communities and Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1397-98W, on the Local Government and Regeneration Division, what *(a)* boards, *(b)* working groups and *(c)* committees there are in each division within her Department other than the Local Government and Regeneration Division. [211490]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's formal governance structures are described in its 2008 annual report. Progress and performance are monitored through programme boards.

Further to my responses to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W and 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1397-98W, the main programme boards other than those within the Local Government and Regeneration Group are the Housing Supply Delivery, Homes and Communities Agency, Olympics, Thames Gateway, Cohesion, Preventing Violent Extremism, Migration, Planning, Fire and Rescue Service and Resilience, Group

Corporate Services, European Regional Development Fund and Government Office Transformation boards.

There are smaller boards and various sub-groups and committees beneath these, which look at specific areas of policy. The number and remit of such smaller boards and working groups changes depending on the Department's business at any one time. We do not currently hold a list of these centrally and to compile one could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to her Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215198]

Mr. Dhanda: The average costs of staff within the Department's Press Office are:

	£
Paybands 6 and 7	68,151
Payband 5	52,227
Payband 4	37,853

These figures include costs for national insurance and pension payments to the Department as well as salary.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W, on departmental public participation, how much each piece of work cost; and how many respondents there were to each. [211070]

Hazel Blears: With reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W, the Department undertook 15 polling and survey projects between 29 November and the end of the financial year. These are listed along with the following costs and numbers of respondents for each:

Name of supplier	*Polling work*	*Number of respondents*	*Costs (£ excluding VAT)*
Andrew Irving Associates Ltd	Quantitative survey on the Code for Sustainable Homes	500	18,000.00
	Pre and post tracking research on the effectiveness of the 'Pull your Finger out' fire safety campaign	2,000	33,750.00
	Fire Safety Research into the Holiday Accommodation Sector qualitative group interviews	76	12,000.00
COI	Fire fighting careers qualitative research and recommendations	78	60,936.00
	Fire Kills Literature Review qualitative group interviews	254	38,341.00
	Fire Kills consumer research and campaign recognition omnibus survey	730	55,000.00
	Two Workshops in London and Hull on the importance of the English language to building communities	[1]35	17,491.25
	Survey of planning professionals about whether Planning Portal services met their needs	828	47,891.51
Cragg Ross Dawson Ltd.	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive research	1,062	30,060.50
GFK NOP Ltd	HIPs consumer awareness, qualitative, and omnibus research	3,635	58,530.94
	Accountability of local council services—omnibus survey	1,027	1,400.00
TH Seagrove	Telephone survey of tenant activists on their awareness etc of landlords work in terms of the Respect agenda	150	1,250.00
IPSOS Mori	Third tranche of 2007 employee survey and the production of aggregated results from the full 2007 employee survey	[2]516 [3]1,676	39,300.00
	Senior Civil Service survey	90	13,500.00
	Employee engagement workshop	8	2,250.00

[1] Attendees
[2] Third tranche
[3] Aggregated results

In the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W, we had added the following information.

Name of supplier	*Polling work*	*Number of respondents*	*Costs (£ excluding VAT)*
Dorset county council	Housing related research		8,800.00

This was added in error as the work with Dorset county council did not relate to housing related research. The payment related to consultancy support for a Business Improvement Package website. This is part of central Government's support for local government transformation by developing an online resource for tools and change management processes. We are taking steps to clarify the original answer.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215100]

Mr. Dhanda: Key communications staff for the entire civil service are listed in The White Book, published by the Central Office of Information. This is available in the Library of the House and contains a listing for Members of the Department's Communications Directorate. The book is updated twice yearly.

Information on some agencies and non-departmental bodies is also held in the White Book. Other data is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* English Partnerships, *(b)* the Housing Corporation and *(c)* the Housing and Communities Agency Transition Team on measures for increasing the number of (i) homes and (ii) affordable homes built each year in the last 12 months. [214793]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Minister for Housing announced on 17 June that she has asked English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and Sir Bob Kerslake, of the Homes and Communities Agency transition team to work with officials to provide proposals on what more we can do across our programmes to work with registered social landlords, housebuilders and others to minimise the problems we currently face and create the right conditions for rapid recovery.

Also Housing Corporation and English Partnerships have been asked to review their programmes to ensure that committed schemes are progressed and that programmes are actively managed.

A package of measures aimed at speeding up procurement and providing flexibility within the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme was announced on the 2 July.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* local authority, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* private accommodation have been assessed by local authority environmental health officers using the Housing Health and Safety Ratings System since its inception; and how many were found to have a Category 1 hazard. [216711]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold data on the number of Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) inspections carried out by Local authorities.

Communities and Local Government asked local authorities in England to submit information on dwellings assessed with category one hazards under the housing health and safety ratings system for (a) private, (b) registered social landlords and (c) local authority properties in their 2006-07 annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). We will be working with local authorities and other stakeholders during 2008 to review the data we are seeking on HHSRS.

Local Authorities: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account is taken of low carbon travel in the national indicators for local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [216324]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Low carbon transport is relevant to the two principal national indicators on climate change mitigation in the new local government performance framework. National Indicator 185, measuring carbon dioxide emissions from local authority operations, includes emissions from the local authority's transport fleet and emissions resulting from vehicles that are not owned or controlled by the local authority where these occur as a consequence of local authority activity (for example, outsourced services). National Indicator 186, on per capita carbon dioxide emissions across a local authority area, captures a wide-range of emissions including those from road transport (with the exception of emissions from motorways over which local authorities have little influence). Under both these indicators, a shift towards lower carbon means of travel can be expected to be reflected in the recorded levels of carbon dioxide emissions.

Parks: Driving Offences

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on enforcement of prohibitions on motorcycles being ridden in parks. [216824]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has not issued any specific guidance to local authorities on the enforcement of prohibitions on motorcycles being ridden in parks.

The Secretary of State is responsible for confirming local authority byelaws. CLG issue model byelaws and guidance notes for use by local authorities. Some of these model byelaws include those which regulate the use of motor propelled vehicles in parks, open spaces, promenades and so on. Guidance notes are issued alongside the model byelaw sets. These are all published on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/modelbyelaw

The relevant guidance notes on the use of motorcycles in parks are the guidance notes to model byelaw set 2 Byelaws for pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces.

Standard of Living: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority areas in the West Midlands had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of deprivation in the latest period for which figures are available. [215828]

John Healey: Based on the Indices of Deprivation 2007 Birmingham is the most deprived authority in the West Midlands on four of the six local authority measures. Stratford-upon-Avon ranks as the least deprived local authority district in the region.

The full listing of authorities and their deprivation ranks can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to disseminate information on the *(a)* duties of and *(b)* opportunities for local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [217275]

Mr. Dhanda: The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 received Royal Assent on 23 October last year. To disseminate information on the duties and opportunities provided, we have:

published a guide to the Act in February 2008 which is available on the Communities and Local Government website;

appointed the Local Government Association as the Selector under the terms of the Act;

consulted on draft regulations and statutory guidance on the procedures to be followed in relation to proposals under section 2 of the Act. This consultation exercise ran from February 2008 ended in May 2008.

Following the consultation we intend to publish a response to consultation, publish final guidance to be included in a package of statutory guidance for the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and make and lay the regulations shortly. We also intend to consult over the summer on local spending reports, which are required by section 6 of the Act. The first invitation to local authorities to submit proposals under the Act will be made by 23 October 2008.

Thames Gateway Bridge

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London on the Thames Gateway Bridge; what her policy is on the re-opening of the associated public inquiry; and if she will make a statement. [215451]

Caroline Flint: There have been no meetings between Ministers or officials from Communities and Local Government Department with the Mayor of London or Transport for London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge since the Mayoral elections. The Secretary of State's reasons for re-opening the public inquiry were set out in her letter of 25 July 2007.

HEALTH

Bone Cancer: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treating bone cancer in young people in Staffordshire in each of the last five years; and what the rate of success was in each year. [215810]

Ann Keen: In 2006-07, the national health service spent approximately £4.35 billion on cancer services. Expenditure on bone cancer cannot be separately identified from this figure.

Survival rates figures for young people in Staffordshire diagnosed with bone cancer are not available.

Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor the policy of primary care trusts in respect of support for the clinical prescribing of anti-tumor necrosis factor remedies for those diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis. [217274]

Ann Keen: All primary care trusts in England and Wales are obliged to fund, from general allocations, anti-tumour necrosis factor therapy for those patients with severe ankylosing spondylitis who meet the clinical guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). This is effective three months from the date of issue of the guidance by NICE.

Ensuring compliance with NICE guidance is the responsibility of strategic health authorities, failure risks an adverse report to the Secretary of State from the independent Healthcare Commission. Ultimately, the Secretary of State reserves powers to intervene through the Recovery Support Unit.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the extension of the 31-day treatment standard, as referred to in his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy of 3 December 2007, will include treatments which fall outside the commissioning policies of primary care trusts and require exceptional requests for funding from clinicians. [216914]

Ann Keen: The extension to the 31-day cancer waiting time standard introduced by the Cancer Reform Strategy (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) will apply to surgical and drug treatments from December 2008, and radiotherapy and all other treatments from December 2010. All treatments commissioned by the English national health service will fall within the scope of the extended standard.

Cancer: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what per capita public expenditure on cancer care within South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [215800]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* care homes, *(b)* residential homes and *(c)* nursing homes in (i) Milton Keynes and (ii) Buckinghamshire were ordered to close in each of the last five years; and for what reasons in each case. [215297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information held centrally with regard to the cancellation of registration of providers of care homes and care homes with nursing in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire is shown in the table.

In 2004-05, CSCI took action to cancel the registration of a provider who owned two nursing homes, following a number of serious breaches of regulations in one of the homes. In 2005-06, CSCI deregistered a care home when it was sold by the provider.

Providers in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire—cancellations of registration 2003-04 to 2007-08

Type of home[1]	*Area*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Nursing homes	Buckinghamshire		2				2
Care homes—personal care only	Milton Keynes			1			1
Total			2	1			3

[1] All care homes are residential. CSCI distinguishes between those providing personal care only, nursing homes (which provide personal care with nursing), and non-medical nursing homes.

[2] This data was collected by the National Care Standards Commission. CSCI took over responsibility for regulating care and nursing homes on 1 April 2004.

Notes:

1. Data as at 27 June 2008.
2. Where numbers are not specified, it should be assumed that the return is zero.

Source:

CSCI registration and inspection database

Care Homes: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation covers the care provided to residents in care homes for the elderly; what changes are planned during the next 12 months; how his Department currently enforces these obligations; what representations he has received since January 2007 on this legislation; and if he will make a statement. [214041]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The primary legislation governing the quality and safety of care provided to residents in care homes is the Care Standards Act 2000. The secondary legislation is the National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001 and the Care Homes Regulations 2001.

The Care Homes Regulations are accompanied by the "Care Homes for Older People National Minimum Standards" (NMS)—aged 65 or over (copies of this publication have already been placed in the Library). The NMS are not statutory requirements—compliance with them is not enforceable. However, compliance with the regulations is, subject to the NMS being taken into account by the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The Care Homes Regulations apply to all providers, whether in the private, voluntary or public sectors.

No changes are planned to the legislation during the next 12 months.

The Care Standards Act established the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) as the regulator of care homes, with responsibility for enforcement of the regulations. The NCSC began work on 1 April 2002.

The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 established CSCI as the independent inspectorate for all social care services in England. CSCI was created as a legal entity on 1 January 2004 and became fully operational on 1 April 2004, when the functions of the NCSC were transferred to it.

CSCI is more independent of Government than the NCSC was. Its Chair and Commissioners are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission. It presents its annual report direct to Parliament, rather than the Department, and it is not required to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State.

CSCI regulates, registers and inspects all social care providers, including care homes, in England. It is unlawful to carry on a care home without being registered, unless the case comes within prescribed exceptions. CSCI has a range of powers, ranging from statutory improvement notices to immediate closure of a service which it uses proportionately to ensure providers comply with regulations.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, all health and adult social care providers that come within the scope of registration will be required to register with the new regulator of health and social care services, the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC will be established later this year. It will begin its work in April 2009, when it will assume responsibility for healthcare associated infections in respect of national health service providers and take on the duties of the Mental Health Act Commission. In April 2010, it will assume the responsibilities of CSCI and the Healthcare Commission.

The establishment of the CQC will give patients and service users confidence in the safety and quality of whichever service they use. For the first time, there will be a single coherent set of national safety and quality requirements and regulations for all providers of health and adult social care services.

The CQC will embody the Government's principles of good regulation to give people the best and safest care and the best possible outcomes for public money. It will reduce the burden of public service inspection, while applying a coherent approach to regulation for all types of health and adult social care providers.

The Department has received a range of representations on the regulation of care homes since January 2007. Of particular relevance is the recently conducted formal consultation on the future framework for the registration of health and social care providers.

A total of around 230 responses was received and officials are now analysing them. A consultation response will be published in due course. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the consultation response will inform regulations on the scope of regulation and the requirements for registration with the new CQC. It is the intention that these will come into force in 2010.

Dementia: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what per capita public expenditure on dementia care within South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [215801]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Dental Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are registered with NHS general dental practices in the South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area; and how many were registered at Tamworth practices in each year since 1997; [215808]

(2) what percentage of the *(a)* adult and *(b)* child population of the South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area were registered with a dental practitioner in 2007. [215851]

Ann Keen: The numbers of patients registered with a national health service dentist as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided for adults and children by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is available by constituency at Annex C.

Information on the numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist, as a percentage of the population is available in Annex B of this report. Information is provided for adults and children by SHA and by PCT.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This Report was published on 23 August 2006, and copies have already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, is available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007, and 31 December 2007. Information is provided for adults and children by SHA and by PCT. Under the new contractual arrangements, information is not available by constituency.

Information on the numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist over the previous 24-month period, as a percentage of the population is available in Table C2 of Annex 3. Information is provided for adults and children by SHA and by PCT.

This report was published on 5 June 2008 and copies have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Both reports have been published by the IC.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS general dental services in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each of the last 10 years. [215850]

Ann Keen: For 2006-07, data on primary dental care expenditure can be derived from primary care trust (PCT) accounts. As the data reflects the new contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, incorporates all relevant service costs, and is based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006, it is not directly comparable with the available data prior to 2006. Expenditure on primary dental services in the North and South Staffordshire PCTs in 2006-07 is set out in the following table. However, the PCT accounts do not separately distinguish expenditure by constituency areas.

Expenditure on primary dental care services in North and South Staffordshire PCTs, 2006-07[1]

£000

	Gross expenditure	Dental charges paid by patients	Net expenditure
North Staffordshire PCT	6,483	1,818	4,665
South Staffordshire PCT	22,574	5,734	16,840

Source:
Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the 2006-07 PCT accounts.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental services (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The Information Centre for health and social care holds local-level information on the expenditure for NHS primary dental care under the former GDS and certain equivalent personal dental service arrangements. Expenditure information in cash and real terms (2006-07 prices), for the financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06 is available for the Tamworth constituency and the following PCTs: Newcastle-under-Lyme; Staffordshire Moorlands; Burntwood, Litchfield and Tamworth; Cannock Chase; East Staffordshire; and South Western Staffordshire. This information is contained in the document "Expenditure on General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services in North and South Staffordshire, 1997-98 to 2005-06", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

[1] Data for Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT has not been included as it falls largely within the area of the Stoke on Trent unitary authority.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent NHS general dental practitioners there are in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire; and how many there were in each of the last two years. [215852]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists on primary care trust (PCT) lists in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. Annex G of the report provides this information by constituency. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report was published by the Information Centre for health and social care (IC), on 23 August 2006, copies have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

The number of dentists on open NHS contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Information by constituency is not available under the new contractual arrangements.

This report was published by the IC, on 23 August 2007, and copies have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the IC's website at:

> http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for counting and reporting the NHS dental workforce is currently under review. The review, led by analysts at the IC and the statistical directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, working in liaison with the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, aims to ensure that following the first year of the new dental contractual arrangements, the figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce.

The workforce data provided in the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete. The review is currently at consultation stage which is due to end on 11 July 2008.

The IC intends to publish workforce data in the "NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2007-08" report. This is due to be published on 21 August 2008.

The IC also intends to publish the "Dental Working Hours: England & Wales, 2006-07 & 2007-08" report on the same day.

Diabetes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of emotional and psychological support to people diagnosed with diabetes. [216572]

Ann Keen: We recognise the important role emotional and psychological support has in enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition on a day-to-day basis. The Department is working in collaboration with Diabetes UK to identify what needs to be done to enable the national health service and local care services to meet the psychological and emotional needs of all people with diabetes.

Doctors: Housing

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on charging junior doctors for their accommodation. [216574]

Ann Keen: The policy is as set out in the "Terms and Conditions of Service of Hospital Medical and Dental Staff and doctors in Public Health Medicine and the Community Health Service in England and Wales (September 2003 as amended)", which reflect the contractual arrangements negotiated with the British Medical Association; copies of this publication are available in the Library. The provisions vary depending on circumstances. Where a junior doctor is required to be resident, no charge will be made. Where a non-resident junior doctor is required to stay overnight in hospital as part of an on-call rota or partial shift system they are required to pay a proportion of the lodging charge depending on their length of stay. Where there is no requirement to be resident, junior doctors may be charged for accommodation in the same way as other national health service staff. Full details can be found in paragraphs 173-183 of the terms and conditions.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have had with NHS acute trusts in London on the provision of NHS accommodation for junior doctors; and if he will make a statement. [216720]

Ann Keen: No discussions have been had with London national health service acute trusts in London about junior doctor accommodation. The provision of accommodation is dependent on the type of contract a junior doctor has. National terms and conditions provide that, where a doctor is required to be resident, no charge will be made for accommodation. We are not aware of any trusts in London who are failing to comply with these terms.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was to each NHS acute trust in the London strategic health authority area of housing junior doctors in NHS-provided accommodation in each of the last five years. [216721]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of junior doctors were housed in NHS-provided accommodation in each NHS acute trust in the London strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [216722]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance will be provided by the NHS to Foundation House Officer 1s requiring help in finding accommodation for their four month placements. [216930]

Ann Keen: Junior doctors can use the same facilities available to other national health service staff to find accommodation. Arrangements vary locally, but the majority of trusts are likely to have either an accommodation office or an officer available to help staff find accommodation. There is also a national NHS housing website for staff to use to search accommodation, which trusts and local agencies access. This can be found at:

www.housing.nhs.uk/

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the removal of free hospital accommodation for junior doctors on the recruitment of medical students from lower socio-economic backgrounds; and what steps he plans to take to prevent any negative effects. [216931]

Ann Keen: We have not removed free accommodation for junior doctors. We have removed the statutory requirement for all first year junior doctors to be resident. Where individual junior doctors are contractually required to be resident, they will continue to receive free accommodation. Where they are not, it is entirely appropriate that they are treated in exactly the same way as other national health service staff. Medical student recruitment remains strong. The "Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration" (DDRB) stated in their 37th report (2008), that they were

> "pleased to note that there continues to be a more than adequate number of good quality applicants to study medicine, which as we have previously commented, is strong evidence that medicine is seen as an attractive career"

Copies of the DDRB's 37th report have already been placed in the Library.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 56W, on doctors: housing, what *(a)* data and *(b)* methodology his Department and NHS employers used to determine the estimate of the number of junior doctors not provided with NHS-funded accommodation included in his Department's evidence to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body in 2007. [216971]

Ann Keen: The Department made no estimate of the number of junior doctors not provided with national health service-funded accommodation for its 2007 Evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration. Until August 2007, all first year junior doctors were statutorily required to be resident and therefore had free accommodation provided. Free accommodation continues to be provided for those who are contractually required to be resident. The Department's evidence did include reference to reports that a third of those junior doctors who were eligible for free accommodation did not use it. This was based on an estimate from NHS Employers, who stated in its evidence that

> "some third of all FY1 trainees provided with free residence chose not to occupy it in 2006-07"

We understand that final numbers suggest that this figure was nearer to a quarter.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the right to free hospital accommodation for junior doctors has not been incorporated into their terms and conditions of service; and if he will make a statement. [217271]

Ann Keen: The terms and conditions of service for junior doctors do incorporate the right to free accommodation for those who are contractually required to be resident. These terms and conditions have been in place since December 2000.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 506W, on doctors: working hours, which members states *(a)* supported and *(b)* did not support the proposed amendment of the Working Time Directive. [215858]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following list.

Supported amendments

Austria
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg Netherlands
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Sweden;
United Kingdom.

Opposed amendments or abstained

Belgium
Cyprus
Greece
Spain
Hungary
Portugal
Malta.

Notes:

1. The voting in the European Council was complex, covering both the EWTD and agency workers directives, and it was not absolutely clear which member states were abstaining or voting against the proposals. This was not significant because there was a clear qualified majority in favour of the proposals.

2. If the voting issue in note one is clarified by the European Council Secretariat or the presidency, this information will be forwarded to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien)

General Practitioners: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average remuneration per full-time equivalent NHS general dental practitioner is in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire; and what it was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each of the last 10 years. [215849]

Ann Keen: Average remuneration per full-time equivalent national health service general dental practitioner in the South Staffordshire primary care trust area alone, is not identifiable from the data held centrally.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for hospital treatment was in *(a)* Milton Keynes, *(b)* Buckinghamshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [214933]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Average in-patient waiting time for organisations covering Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and England, 1997 to present

Median wait (weeks)

	Organisations covering		
Period ending March	*Milton Keynes*	*Buckinghamshire*	*England*
1997	n/a	15.5	13.2
1998	n/a	18.0	14.9
1999	n/a	14.8	12.9
2000	n/a	14.8	12.9
2001	n/a	12.2	12.6
2002	n/a	13.3	12.7
2003	11.5	11.3	11.9
2004	9.6	10.0	10.2
2005	8.0	7.8	8.5
2006	6.8	7.4	7.3
2007	5.3	5.4	6.2
2008	4.1	4.2	4.5

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Organisations covering Milton Keynes:
N/A, 1997-2002 (part of Buckinghamshire Health Authority (HA)).
Milton Keynes PCT, 2003-08.
2. Organisations covering Buckinghamshire:
Buckinghamshire HA, 1997-2002
Chilton and South Buckinghamshire PCT, Milton Keynes PCT, Vale of Aylesbury PCT, Wycombe PCT, 2003-06
Buckinghamshire PCT, Milton Keynes PCT, 2007-08
3. Figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting at the end of the period.
4. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
5. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:
QF01 and Monthly Monitoring (Commissioner based)

Lung Cancer

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Healthcare Commission on *(a)* increasing the level of data collection on lung cancer and *(b)* including outcome data on lung cancer as part of the annual healthcheck. [214582]

Ann Keen: The National Clinical Audit Support program (NCASP), which is part of the Information Centre for health and social care, and the Royal College of Physicians manage the National Lung Cancer Audit (LUCADA). They have proposed that the Healthcare Commission include specific participation in the national cancer audits, including the LUCADA, as part of the annual health check. They have also recommended key performance measures including: data completeness; histological confirmation rates; and key treatment rates (such as surgical resection).

NCASP provided data on crude treatment rates on lung cancer as part of the annual health check in 2007. Case-mix adjusted data on treatment rates and survival should be available by hospital in the next annual report, due to be published at the end of this year.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to include indicators of quality of care and clinical outcomes for lung cancer patients in the commissioning process. [214583]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Network teams will act as agents for commissioners and, in line with world class commissioning, will maintain dialogues with clinical teams and users, driving high quality care. The networks will also engage with providers to ensure required clinical outcomes are achieved and to drive continuous improvement.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of trusts participated in the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2007; what steps he has taken to encourage trusts and cancer networks to participate in the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2008; and what sanctions he is able to place on trusts which do not participate in the audit; [214584]

(2) what steps he has taken to encourage hospital trusts and strategic health authorities to contribute patients' data to the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2008. [214585]

Ann Keen: Participation in the 2007 National Lung Cancer Audit has yet to be ascertained. The data for 2007 will not be published before December 2008.

The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) gives strong encouragement to hospitals and networks to participate in the national lung cancer audit. However, participation in national audits is not mandatory and so there are no sanctions that can be placed on trusts that do not participate in the National Lung Cancer Audit. Participation is encouraged by the National Cancer Peer Review Process and is used by the Healthcare Commission as evidence of compliance with Core Standards.

Reports on audit participation in previous years have been provided to strategic health authorities, and copies of the last annual report were sent to the chief executives of all trusts that treat lung cancer patients. The IC has developed local action plans to help improve data quality and outcomes, and these have been sent to trusts and cancer networks.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase awareness of the symptoms of lung cancer among *(a)* healthcare professionals and *(b)* members of the public. [216404]

Ann Keen: In December 2007, the Cancer Reform Strategy (copies of which have already been placed in the Library) established the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative, led by the National Cancer Director. In order to co-ordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness among healthcare professionals and the general public, the initiative is bringing together and collaborating with representatives of local authorities, the Department, the National Cancer Research Institute, cancer charities and patient representatives. The initiative, which is in the early stages of development, will co-ordinate a programme of activity to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness. We will be involving professionals such as pharmacists and social workers, as we develop the initiative.

In 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published updated guidance for general practitioners and primary healthcare professionals on when a patient should be urgently referred to a specialist for investigation of suspected cancer. The National Cancer Research Institute will be exploring how to further support healthcare professionals in spotting potential cancer symptoms.

We will be establishing a national audit in primary care of all patients newly diagnosed with cancer to understand more about the nature and extent of delays in cancer diagnosis. Its findings will be used to decide how best to provide more support to primary care professionals to ensure early diagnosis of cancer.

In addition, the Department's Lung Cancer Awareness Month Working Group has revised its key messages about the signs and symptoms of lung cancer. It is strongly promoting the message that early detection of lung cancer can save lives.

Lung Cancer: Research

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided from the NHS research and development budget into research into lung cancer in each financial year since 1997-98; what research has been funded by such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [216392]

Ann Keen: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom wide partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org.

Details of current departmental and Medical Research Council site-specific cancer research can be found through this database.

The NCRI report "Lung Cancer research in the UK 2006" offered an analysis of the reasons for the historically low levels of investment in lung cancer research and made proposals for increasing its scale. Copies of this report have been placed in the Library.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-7W, on medical records: data protection, what his definition of a health community is. [215863]

Mr. Bradshaw: In my previous answer, the term local health community was used to designate all clinicians, managers and other staff of general practitioner practices, primary care trusts and national health service trusts involved in the management and provision of NHS health care for patients within a geographical area agreed by the constituent organisations.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recommendations the National Commissioning Group has made on national funding for ultra-orphan therapies; whether his Department may overturn any decisions made by the National Specialised Commissioning Group on the funding of ultra orphan therapies; and if he will make a statement. [216766]

Ann Keen: The National Commissioning Group (NCG) met in June and made a recommendation to the National Specialised Commissioning Group (NSCG) that the service for patients with paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria met their criteria for national commissioning. This application includes treatment of the condition with a newly licensed ultra-orphan drug, eculizumab. The NSCG will make recommendations about additions to the national commissioning portfolio at its meeting in July.

Ministers carefully consider the advice of the NCG and the NSCG and make final decisions about any proposed changes to the national specialised commissioning portfolio.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what systems his Department has in place to prevent geographical variations in prescribing of novel and unique drug therapies for rare disorders which are not appraised by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement; [216767]

(2) what plans the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence has to appraise ultra-orphan therapies; and if he will make a statement. [216768]

Ann Keen: In December 2006, the Government re-issued Good Practice Guidance on Managing the Introduction of New Healthcare Interventions and links to NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance to the local national health service, which states that funding for treatments should not be withheld simply because guidance from the national Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is unavailable but that decisions should be made on the basis of the available evidence. The Guidance also suggests alternative sources of information for NHS organisations to consult in the absence of NICE guidance. Copies of the guidance have already been placed in the Library.

The draft NHS constitution makes clear the patient's right to expect local decisions on funding for drugs for which NICE guidance is not available to be made rationally following proper consideration of the evidence. Where the local NHS decides not to fund a treatment, the patient and clinician can expect an explanation. To underpin this, the Government will require primary care trusts to put in place clear and transparent arrangements both for local decision-making on funding of new drugs and for considering exceptional funding requests, and to publish information on those arrangements.

NICE has already appraised a number of orphan drugs but a separate appraisal system for ultra-orphan drugs has not been established. This position is kept under review in the context of other developments relating to the Government's policy on new drugs.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what procedures and under what authority specialist commissioning groups assess funding for ultra-orphan therapies; and if he will make a statement. [216769]

Dawn Primarolo: specialised commissioning groups (SCGs) are joint-committees of primary care trusts (PCTs) and draw their authority to commission healthcare services from that of their constituent PCTs. The responsibility for considering the funding of new drugs or treatments rests with individual PCTs and SCGs. Commissioners must balance local pressures and priorities for existing services and new developments, taking account of the available evidence of cost and clinical effectiveness.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the Spine functionality has failed *(a)* locally and *(b)* nationally; and for how long the failure lasted in each case. [215271]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 'spine' is the colloquial name given to the national database of key information about patients' health and care. It forms the core of the NHS Care Records Service. It also supports other key elements of the national programme for IT (NPfIT), such as choose and book, the electronic prescriptions service, the summary care record and 'GP to GP' record transfer, each of them using the spine's messaging functionality as part of their own services.

Reports of service incidents for investigation fall into five levels of severity, ranging from those which have a significant adverse impact on the provision of the service (severity 1), to those comprising mere cosmetic flaws, for example on-screen misalignment of data (severity 5). They may involve intermittent failures or be unnoticed by the user since other, associated application functionality is unaffected. Similarly, the service incidents that do occur do not usually affect all users and may be quite localised.

A breakdown of reported incidents by date and whether these were a result of a national service incident or were as a result of local circumstances, together with the period of service interruption, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There is no evidence of any service incident having had a material impact on the quality of patient care.

The service availability levels required under the spine contract are exceptionally demanding compared with those for information technology systems that preceded NPfIT. Since the first spine applications went live in July 2004, overall service availability has typically been continuously either at 100 per cent. or very close to 100 per cent. across the whole range of spine services. Details of service availability for spine services, measured against contracted target availability, is routinely published, and updated weekly, on the NHS Connecting for Health website at:

> www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/newsroom/statistics/availability/ncrs_stats.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that patients and clinicians at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre are consulted on proposals put forward by the South Central Strategic Health Authority to merge the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre with another health organisation; [216525]

(2) what assessment the South Central strategic health authority has made of the *(a)* clinical and *(b)* financial effects of a merger of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre with another health organisation. [216526]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: Decisions about the future of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust are a matter for the local national health service. The information requested about South Central strategic health authority's (SHA's) assessment of the clinical and financial effects of a merger between the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and another health organisation is not collected centrally.

The SHA has advised that it is committed to working with its partners in the local health care economy to identify a model which secures the future delivery of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust services. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise these issues with the chief executive of South Central strategic health authority.

NHS organisations have a legal obligation to involve and consult patients and the public in the planning of services, development of proposals for change and consideration of proposals affecting the operation of services. Separately, where it is agreed that the proposals to reconfigure services include any significant change to the way services are provided, local trusts have a duty to consult with the relevant overview and scrutiny committee (OSC). Following the consultation period, the NHS organisations will have to make a decision on the best way forward. Local OSCs have the power to review and scrutinise health services from the perspective of their local populations, and can refer proposals to the Secretary of State if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service. Ultimately, however, the configuration of health care services in a particular area is a decision that needs to be taken at a local level.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he plans to make to the recommendations contained in the report from the Organ Donation Taskforce; and whether he has made an estimate of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* number of intensive care beds associated with implementation. [216398]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to implementing the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations and have allocated £11 million for 2008-09 to support this work. This includes funding for the reimbursement of trusts facilitating donation. Funding for years 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be agreed as part of the normal annual business planning process.

A Programme Delivery Board, Chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh (NHS Medical Director) and comprising of key organ donation stakeholder organisations, has been established to determine how each of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations can be taken forward and evaluate the resources required. The estimation of the numbers of intensive care beds associated with implementation will be conducted as part of this work.

Radiotherapy: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for radiotherapy treatment in South Staffordshire NHS primary care trust area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [215803]

Ann Keen: Information about average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment, including radiotherapy, is not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times standards were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. They are a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment. In the last quarter (January to March 2008), performance against these standards in England was 99.5 per cent. and 96.8 per cent. respectively.

Social Services

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has made to monitor the implementation of individual care plans for people with long-term conditions outlined in the Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper; and what incentives he plans to introduce for the implementation of such plans. [214485]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing a range of options to measure and incentivise the delivery and impact of care planning including the use of patient surveys to monitor patient experience at a local level.

Strokes: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce early death rates for stroke victims. [216832]

Ann Keen: Stroke mortality is falling. For people under 65, the three-year average death rate from stroke has fallen by 23 per cent. over the period from 1993-95 to 2002-04. For people aged 65 to 75 the death rate has dropped by 30 per cent. over the same period.

The 'National Stroke Strategy', published on 5 December, sets out a framework for care of people who have had a stroke (copies of the strategy have already been placed in the Library). By following the recommendations in the strategy, up to 1,600 strokes could be prevented each year, with outcomes improved for another 6,800 people. Based around four key areas, the strategy looks to raise awareness of stroke, improve acute care, improve after hospital care and support, and develop a stroke skilled work force.

This is a 10-year strategy but we expect to see a significant improvement in stroke services in the next three years.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Opportunities: Public Bodies

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of whether Government-funded organisations have implemented the gender equality duty; and what steps she is taking to ensure that the duty is implemented. [207154]

Barbara Follett: The gender duty came into effect in April 2007 and I am pleased with the progress made and good practice put in place since then. However, although the duty's overall impact is positive, public bodies could use it more to improve the services they offer to both men and women.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is monitoring the progress made by public bodies in meeting their obligations under the gender duty and continues to offer advice to how best to do this. The Commission's main aim is to help public bodies meet their statutory obligations but, where they consistently fail to do so, it will institute legal obligation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to answer the letter of 22 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Miss Rena Wood, transferred from the Home Department. [210191]

Barbara Follett: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 9 June.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 286W, on Chequers, whether the information on hospitality provided at Chequers in 2007-08 is ready for publication. [216781]

The Prime Minister: Information on official hospitality held at Chequers will be published in due course.

Dalai Lama

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Prime Minister in what venues either he or his predecessors met the Dalai Lama in the last 30 years. [215835]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) and Worthing, West (Peter Bottomley) on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how long on average his office took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215460]

The Prime Minister: My office aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions (PQs) within five working days, and named day written PQs on the day named. Since the start of the current parliamentary Session 97 per cent. of named day PQs and 81 per cent. of ordinary written PQs were answered on time. Information for previous parliamentary Sessions is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216607]

Mr. Woodward: Within the Northern Ireland Office there are no members of staff undertaking, or who have undertaken, *(a)* apprenticeships or *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in the most recent year.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* scheduled date and *(b)* title was of each conference proposed to be hosted by his Department and its agencies which was cancelled before taking place in each of the last 10 years; and what costs were incurred in respect of each. [215166]

Mr. Woodward: From the records available over the last 10 years the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies did not cancel any conferences proposed to be hosted by this Department.

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212518]

Mr. Woodward: Some members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office work from home as and when circumstances allow and with prior agreement from their local management, but we do not hold the numbers centrally.

The Department is currently examining whether it would be possible to expand these arrangements bearing in mind the additional cost, security and health and safety issues.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies in the last 24 months. [215611]

Mr. Woodward: During the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008, 17 departmental passes were reported lost. Of these two were lost by staff working in executive agencies. None were reported stolen.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fixed speed cameras are in operation in each council area in Northern Ireland. [215737]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme has currently four fixed site speed cameras and two SPECS (average speed) Systems in operation. This is shown in the following table.

Council area	*Type*	*Number of cameras*	*Location*
Castlereagh	Fixed	2	Upper Newtownards Road Saintfield Road
Belfast	Fixed	2	Antrim Road, Springfield Road
Newry and Mourne	SPECS	1	A1 Duel Carriageway (North and South of Newry City)
North Down	SPECS	1	A2 Belfast to Bangor Road

In addition there are eight mobile camera vans operating at 65 signed routes and sites across Northern Ireland.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make it his policy that local residents be consulted before a bail hostel is established in their area; [216373]

(2) how many bail hostels *(a)* are planned and *(b)* were set up in the last year for which records are available in (i) Castle Point constituency and (ii) Essex. [216417]

Mr. Hanson: The accommodation provided by ClearSprings for defendants on bail and for offenders released on Home Detention Curfew is not hostel accommodation, but normal residential housing with up to five people sharing. The houses are the private rented homes of those occupying them. It is not appropriate to consult the public about where those released from prison, or bailed by the Courts to live in their own homes, may live. ClearSprings is required to consult the police, probation and local authority about the location of the housing they provide. It is our policy to seek planning permission for approved premises, which are hostels.

No ClearSprings housing for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service has been established in Castle

Point or elsewhere in Essex. However, the Regional Offender Manager for East of England has asked ClearSprings to source properties as soon as possible in or near Chelmsford (three beds), Colchester (three beds), Harlow (four beds) and Southend (two x three beds). It is expected that there will also be a need to find a property in the Basildon area in future.

Coroners

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions a coroner acting under Rule 5 of the Coroners (Practice and Procedure) Rules (NI) 1963 exercised his power to exclude the public from an inquest in each of the last five years. [216585]

Mr. Hanson: The power to exclude the public from an inquest has not been exercised by coroners since April 2006, when the new Coroners Service for Northern Ireland was established.

Before the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland was established in April 2006, coroners did not have computerised systems to assist them and therefore the information is not held centrally and could be provided by manually checking paper records only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216419]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has just over 4,000 members of staff with encrypted computers and related equipment which enables them to work securely from home.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have (i) conducted and (ii) commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [211103]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not conducted any review of regulation since July 2007 but has commenced three reviews of regulation since that date. These are:

(a) A Review of the Thirty Year Rule (Public Records Act);

(b) The Walport/Thomas Review of Data Protection and Data Sharing (Data Protection Act); and

(c) Review of fee for a personal search of the local land charges register.

We are also currently considering the appropriate timing for post legislative scrutiny of three Acts that received Royal Assent in 2005:

(a) Constitutional Reform Act 2005

(b) Mental Capacity Act 2005

(c) Inquiries Act 2005

We will be agreeing the handling of these reviews with the Justice Select Committee.

No separate reviews of regulation have been conducted nor commenced by the agencies of the Ministry of Justice since July 2007.

The Ministry of Justice's progress against the Better Regulation agenda is contained in the Ministry's Simplification Plan for 2007, published on our website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-simp-plan.pdf

Drugs: Crime

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for the third time of *(a)* trafficking class A drugs and *(b)* domestic burglary in each of the last five years; and what proportion of each received the mandatory minimum sentence applicable. [215968]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of people sentenced to the mandatory minimum for a third class A drug trafficking offence and third domestic burglary, under section 110 and 111 of the Power of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act (2000).

Table 2.6 Persons sentenced under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000 to 2006 England and Wales

		Number of persons
	Section 110: Minimum 7 years for third class A drug trafficking offence	*Section 111: Minimum 3 years for third domestic burglary*
2000	2	
2001	1	6
2002		2
2003	3	13
2004	4	46
2005	3	89
2006	7	229

Note:

Section 109 was replaced on 4 April 2005 by sentences of imprisonment for public protection. Figures therefore relate to offences committed prior to that date.

These are numbers recorded by courts as receiving the mandatory sentence. As the Courts Proceedings Database does not include criminal histories we are not able to identify those convicted for a third time that were not given the mandatory minimum from this data source.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on the fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fair Trade products. [211565]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold central records of the amount spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements. Therefore, we cannot calculate the percentage of Fairtrade produce as a total of this expenditure. This information could be obtained by manually contacting each division only at disproportionate cost.

Firearms: Sentencing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received the mandatory five year sentence for being in possession of a firearm in the last five years. [216495]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for possession of an illegal firearm eligible for the mandatory minimum, and the proportion who received the mandatory minimum.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in autumn 2008.

Persons[1] sentenced to mandatory five-year custodial sentence for firearms possession offences[2], all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

Number of persons and percentage of total

	Total persons sentenced	*Persons given immediate custody*	*Of which five years or over[3]*	*Percentage of total sentenced*
2004[4]	736	251	81	11.0
2005	385	242	146	37.9
2006	281	212	141	50.2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition or firearm disguised as other object. Firearms Act 1968 sections 5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) and section 5(1A)(a) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 287.

[3] Three years in the case of persons aged 16-17.

[4] Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory sentence being introduced in January 2004.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Judges: Official Residences

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 879W, on judges: official residences, what the addresses were in respect of which the expenditure was made. [216733]

Maria Eagle: The answer to which the right hon. Gentleman refers did not refer to official residences but to the domestic residences of judicial office holders, as was made clear at the time.

In the interests of security, the private addresses of judicial office holders where protective security work has been carried out are not made public.

Ministerial Duties

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of his working week is taken up in duties arising from his role and responsibilities as Lord Chancellor. [216048]

Mr. Straw: The proportion of my time taken up in duties arising from my role and responsibilities as Lord Chancellor, and that taken up in duties arising from my role and responsibilities as Secretary of State for Justice, varies greatly day to day and week to week depending on the issues which present themselves.

The breakdown of my responsibilities in each office is shown in the following list. The functions listed in italics are entrenched functions of the Lord Chancellor, that is they cannot be transferred to another Minister without legislation.

Division of responsibilities between the Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Justice as at 1 November 2007

Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor are two legally separate ministerial offices, albeit combined in one person. Great Seal, judiciary-related and judicial appointment functions are entrenched in the Lord Chancellorship, and cannot be transferred by order under the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975. These are shown in italics in the following list. There are no entrenched functions in the Secretary of State.

Lord Chancellor

Custody and exercise of the Great Seal

Judicial appointments and all matters related to the judiciary and lay magistracy, including titles, pay, pensions, conduct and discipline

Procedural rules, appointments to rule committees/advisory councils, fees as applicable in Criminal Justice, Civil Justice, Family Justice and Administrative Justice

HM Court Services (i.e. administrative systems, staff, services and accommodation, for the Supreme Court of England and Wales (including the crown courts and district probate registries), the county courts and the magistrates courts)

The Tribunals Service

The Land Registry

The Northern Ireland Court Service

The Law Commission

Public records

The National Archives

The Crown Dependencies

Royal and hereditary matters

Legal aid

Regulation of the Legal Professions

Secretary of State for Justice

National Offender Management Service, including the prison and probation services

Criminal law and sentencing policy

Sponsorship of relevant inspectorates and NDPBs, including the Prison Service, Parole Board, Youth Justice Board

Devolution

Data Protection

Freedom of Information

Human Rights

Electoral Law

Prisoners: Personal Property

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedure is in place for recording and storing prisoners' personal property (*a*) in the prisoner's possession upon arrival in prison and (*b*) sent to prisoners during their custody. [216187]

Maria Eagle: Guidance on prisoners' in-possession property is contained in PSO 1250 (a copy of which is in the Library). All property either accompanying a prisoner into prison or sent to them during their custody must be searched in reception and recorded on the appropriate property record card.

The amount of property that a prisoner may retain in their possession is limited by the policy on volumetric control which restricts prisoners to that which can be fitted into two standard size volumetric control boxes.

It is for prison governors to decide locally what items prisoners are allowed to retain in their possession bearing in mind what they consider appropriate for their local circumstances and to fit in with their locally devised Incentive and Earned Privileges scheme. Any surplus property will either be stored locally in the prison or sent to the HM Prison Service National Distribution Centre at Branston until 28 days before the prisoner is due to be released when the holding prison should request that the property be sent to them in preparation for discharge.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many items of prisoners' *(a)* clothing and *(b)* other property were stored by each prison in England and Wales between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008; how many such items were reported (i) lost, (ii) damaged and (iii) stolen during that year; and what sum of compensation has been paid by the Prison Service for the loss, damage or theft of personal property in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [216188]

Mr. Straw: The Prison Service does not keep a central record of the amount of prisoners' clothing and property that is stored by each prison and to provide this information would involve both the individual scrutiny of a substantial amount of documents at each prison and a large data collecting exercise this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The Prison Service also does not keep a central record of the number of items that prisoners report lost, damaged or stolen; again, such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A breakdown of the compensation the Prison Service has paid over the last 10 years to prisoners for damaged or lost property is set out in the following tables. In capturing the information the Prison Service does not distinguish between prisoners' lost or stolen property.

Damaged property

	Number of cases	Compensation (£)
2007-08	270	14,236.13
2006-07	320	17,039.53
2005-06	297	19,619.27
2004-05	254	9,284.70
2003-04	332	10,130.96
2002-03	293	16,239.95
2001-02	324	18,861.78
2000-01	302	18,242.67
1999-2000	322	15,037.08
1998-99	378	16,575.80

Lost property

	Number of cases	Compensation (£)
2007-08	1,730	106,400.77
2006-07	1,533	100,206.56
2005-06	1,537	109,807.22
2004-05	1,359	89,772.56
2003-04	1,646	102,022.56
2002-03	1,784	111,658.83
2001-02	1,546	81,566.78
2000-01	1,429	68,090.22
1999-2000	1,218	92,952.55
1998-99	1,277	79,274.18

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoner on staff assaults there were in each of the last five years, listed by prison; [215861]

(2) how many prisoner-on-staff assaults were *(a)* referred to and *(b)* investigated by police forces in each of the last five years, listed by prison. [215966]

Mr. Straw: Table 1 shows incidents of prisoner on staff assaults in each of the last five years by prison.

The information set out is subject to important qualifications. The National Offender Management Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Other (including miscellaneous assault information) and Prisoner on Other. The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of an underlying trend for a particular prison. Additionally there have been improvements in reporting over the years, and this is reflected in the tables.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. Additionally in a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

The category 'Prisoner on Other' contains few entries but these may include prison staff as well as visitors, legal visitors etc. For the purpose of this response the categories 'Prisoner on Officer' and 'Prisoner on Other' are used.

Table 1: Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Acklington	3	3	5	8	9
Albany	3			3	n/a
Altcourse	48	51	47	39	53
Ashfield	70	90	180	136	100
Ashwell	1			5	3
Aylesbury	15	6	17	18	14
Bedford	14	11	15	31	13
Belmarsh	52	43	35	22	22

Table 1. Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Birmingham	59	85	99	81	78
Blakenhurst	27	56	46	34	38
Blundeston	3	4	7	7	1
Brinsford	39	34	19	10	17
Bristol	26	48	28	41	15
Brixton	52	72	50	37	41
Brockhill	6	10	14	9	3
Bronzefield		20	87	81	43
Buckley Hall	38	19	25	14	11
Bullingdon	23	16	17	23	24
Bullwood Hall	1		9	6	3
Camphill	13	9	12	5	n/a
Canterbury	9	4	4	3	4
Cardiff	11	16	19	14	6
Castington	56	57	50	46	46
Channings Wood	4	10	10	8	16
Chelmsford	16	22	37	53	21
Coldingley	1		1	3	8
Cookham Wood	14	5	3	1	2
Dartmoor	9	5	12	7	10
Deerbolt	6	28	33	22	34
Doncaster	28	23	26	47	29
Dorchester	4	2	10	9	9
Dovegate	48	80	35	59	43
Downview	6	8	29	9	12
Drake Hall			1	1	
Durham	34	31	42	46	58
East Sutton Park	1	1			
Eastwood Park	13	7	21	28	8
Edmunds Hill	9	23	9	13	2
Elmley	25	21	30	17	28
Erlestoke		2	2	2	10
Everthorpe	2	2	10	14	13
Exeter	12	3	7	12	9
Featherstone	8	21	8	9	17
Feltham	103	173	138	118	107
Ford	3	7	5	3	4
Forest Bank	63	78	88	54	34
Foston Hall	18	8	13	28	27
Frankland	5	15	12	10	21
Full Sutton	13	12	17	14	9
Garth	11	5	7	9	9
Gartree		1	2	3	1
Glen Parva	29	39	31	45	56
Gloucester	17	6	13	15	6
Grendon/Spring Hill					1
Guys Marsh	6	5	3	14	16
Haverigg	7	2	1	5	18
Hewell Grange			2		1
High Down	51	59	40	71	67
Highpoint	22	19	16	23	22
Hindley	27	14	32	58	48
Hollesley Bay	4	3		1	
Holloway	104	108	89	111	104
Holme House	21	19	27	24	20
Hull	32	30	33	25	33
Huntercombe	19	15	15	33	24
Kingston	1		2	2	
Kirkham		1			2
Lancaster		3	1	2	1
Lancaster Farms	9	28	47	56	39
Leeds	79	40	36	17	18

Table 1: Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Leicester	11	6	7	18	7
Lewes	22	11	21	17	17
Leyhill		1	1	2	3
Lincoln	12	23	22	15	23
Lindholme	19	6	13	13	20
Littlehey	13	10	10	5	4
Liverpool	46	38	24	21	31
Long Lartin	5	5	15	12	15
Low Newton	16	27	31	21	20
Lowdham Grange	5	13	17	36	39
Maidstone	6	5	1	2	8
Manchester	61	63	73	65	78
Moorland	22	13	20	16	15
Morton Hall	1	3	3	8	1
Mount	13	8	12	15	21
New Hall	23	19	29	60	48
North Sea Camp	2	1			1
Northallerton	19	22	14	9	8
Norwich	25	18	18	18	1
Nottingham	16	33	15	25	47
Onley	98	15	29	32	25
Parc	59	61	50	51	53
Parkhurst	18	15	16	3	n/a
Pentonville	91	97	123	61	69
Peterborough			75	141	115
Portland	16	39	40	42	39
Preston	11	18	25	29	45
Ranby	9	3	3	17	17
Reading	7	16	16	12	9
Risley	19	27	32	29	23
Rochester	16	18	23	13	4
Rye Hill	21	39	65	48	43
Send	4		2	3	1
Shepton Mallet	1		1		2
Shrewsbury	14	5	4	7	7
Stafford	13	7	13	14	10
Standford Hill				1	1
Stocken	10	8	12	7	9
Stoke Heath	20	19	56	69	76
Styal	7	12	13	32	46
Sudbury	2		1	1	
Swaleside	17	16	9	11	8
Swansea	8	4	4	6	
Swinfen Hall	9	4	10	10	9
Thorn Cross	4	1	1	4	1
Usk/Prescoed				1	1
Verne	1	6	4		
Wakefield	8	8	9	8	15
Wandsworth	78	86	87	38	36
Warren Hill	12	21	34	42	50
Wayland	11	9	3	9	10
Wealstun	2		3	2	6
Weare	11	6	4		
Wellingborough	1	2	16	14	5
Werrington	24	19	19	22	12
Wetherby	14	77	72	60	37
Whatton	1	1		4	12
Whitemoor	15	16	19	11	22
Winchester	13	15	12	10	4

Table 1: Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Wolds	8	13	4	9	8
Woodhill	36	39	71	68	52
Wormwood Scrubs	40	74	60	58	70
Wymott	2		4	4	4
Total	2,541	2,799	3,171	3,148	2,916

[1] The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system.

Table 2 provides details of when the police have been informed following an assault on prison staff (as recorded on the NOMS Incident Recording System). There are a variety of reasons why assaults on staff may not be reported to the police, including consideration of internal sanctions and wishes of individuals.

On 18 February, an announcement was made that Her Majesty's Prison Service had made joint commitment with the Prison Officers Association to 'Zero Tolerance', and that I would be pursuing with my right hon. Friends the Attorney-General (Baroness Scotland) and Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) the role of the police and the Crown Prosecution Service in a more vigorous approach to prosecuting alleged assaults on staff.

Current guidance is that alleged assaults should be referred to the police if a weapon causing, or likely to cause, serious injury was used, if serious injury occurred by any means, if serious violence intended or likely to cause more than minor injury was used, or where there has been personal sexual violation other than rape of an especially vulnerable victim or threats of violence. Any alleged assault amounting to unlawful imprisonment (hostage-taking) should also be referred. If the Governor decides not to refer the case to the police, or if no prosecution follows, the Governor will consider referring the charge to an independent adjudicator (District Judge), who is empowered to impose punishments of additional days, as well as any of the punishments available to Governors under the Prison Rules. Serious assaults (based on the level of injury, pre-planning, or a previous history of violence) will normally be referred to the independent adjudicator. Other assaults will be dealt with by the Governor through the adjudication process.

Table 2: Assaults on staff reported to the police

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Acklington			1	1	1
Albany				2	n/a
Altcourse	2		6	2	3
Ashfield	2			12	6
Ashwell				1	
Aylesbury	1				1
Bedford	2	3	1	3	
Belmarsh			1	2	3
Birmingham	3	4	4		4
Blakenhurst	4	6	4	9	9
Blundeston		1	3	2	
Brinsford	4	2	9	4	
Bristol	4	10	8	6	
Brixton	1	3	4		
Brockhill	1	1	9	2	2
Bronzefield		3	4	2	2
Buckley Hall	1	1	1	1	1
Bullingdon	2	4	3	2	1
Bullwood Hall	1		1	1	
Camphill	3	6	1	1	n/a
Canterbury		1			
Cardiff	1	1	2	2	
Castington	2	3	1	1	1
Channings Wood	1	1	4	1	4
Chelmsford		3	6		4
Coldingley	1		1		3
Cookham Wood	2		1	1	
Dartmoor	5	2	2	1	6
Deerbolt	1	2	6	5	1
Doncaster	1	1	3		
Dorchester	2		1	4	2
Dovegate	8	9	2	6	10
Downview	1	1	1	1	4
Durham	4	4			3

Table 2: Assaults on staff reported to the police

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Eastwood Park	1	1	3	1	1
Edmunds Hill		3	1	1	1
Elmley	6	3	1	1	4
Erlestoke		1	2		5
Everthorpe	1	1	1	4	1
Exeter	3	2	4	6	2
Featherstone	2	4	3	1	1
Feltham	11	5	1	4	1
Ford		6	3		3
Forest Bank	9	10	8	7	3
Foston Hall			2	4	2
Frankland	3	6	2		5
Full Sutton	6	5	9	4	2
Garth	1		3	4	3
Gartree		1	2	1	
Glen Parva		4	2	5	7
Gloucester	3	4	5	2	2
Grendon/Spring Hill					1
Guys Marsh	2	1	2	3	4
Haverigg	5	1		1	6
Hewell Grange			2		1
High Down	1	1	4	5	
Highpoint	3	4	2	8	5
Hindley	2	3	3	1	5
Hollesley Bay		2		1	
Holloway	7	5	2	3	4
Holme House	1	2	3	1	3
Hull	4	2	2	3	6
Huntercombe	3		4	7	4
Kirkham					1
Lancaster		1		2	
Lancaster Farms	2	8	1	1	4
Leeds	4	1	1		2
Leicester		2		8	2
Lewes		3	6	1	3
Lincoln		3	2	1	3
Lindholme	2	3	1	3	2
Littlehey	2	1	1		2
Liverpool	1	2	5		3
Long Lartin	5	5	10	12	13
Low Newton	3	1	3	1	2
Lowdham Grange		2	6	2	1
Maidstone	2	2	1		2
Manchester	5	1		3	2
Moorland	1		1	1	3
Mount	4	1		1	4
New Hall	1	2	1	2	2
North Sea Camp		1			
Northallerton		4		1	1
Norwich	7	6	9	6	1
Nottingham	1	2	2	2	5
Onley	6	1	2	2	1
Parc	1	3	7	1	2
Parkhurst	4	2	3	1	n/a
Pentonville	1	2	7	3	4
Peterborough			6	12	11
Portland	3	1	2	3	6
Preston	4	2	4	7	5
Ranby	5	2	1	3	8
Reading	1			1	
Risley	4	1	11	8	10
Rochester	1	8	5		
Rye Hill	2	4	2	4	1
Send	2		1		

Table 2: Assaults on staff reported to the police

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Shepton Mallet			1		
Shrewsbury	1	1	1	2	
Stafford	10	1	2	8	3
Stocken		2	2	2	
Stoke Heath	8	1	2	3	1
Styal	2		1	5	3
Sudbury			1		
Swaleside	4	6	2	5	4
Swansea	3	1	1		
Swinfen Hall		1	2	2	3
Thorn Cross	2		1		
Usk/Prescoed					1
Verne		4	1		
Wakefield	3		2	1	2
Wandsworth	4	8	10	1	
Warren Hill	1		3	1	1
Wayland	8	3	2	1	8
Wealstun	1				
Weare	3	2	1		
Wellingborough	1		5	2	
Werrington	9	3	6	1	1
Wetherby	6	7	10	1	4
Whatton					
Whitemoor	1	1	2	1	2
Winchester	2	5	4	1	1
Wolds	1				
Woodhill	1		3		
Wormwood Scrubs	7	3	6	3	4
Wymott			1	1	1
Total	284	279	340	297	312

[1] The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system

Information about action taken by the police is not held centrally and can be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons are free of the use of controlled drugs. [216576]

Mr. Straw: Prisons have achieved considerable success in reducing the level of drug misuse against a background of continuing high demand for drugs. Drug misuse as measured by random mandatory drug testing has fallen 63 per cent. since 1996-97, from 24.4 per cent. to 9.1 per cent. in 2007-08.

A single episode of drug misuse over a defined period, strictly interpreted, would deprive a prison of drug free status. Over the 2007-08 financial year, two prisons reported no drug misuse, as measured by random mandatory drug testing.

On average, 29 prisons reported no drug misuse during any one month of the 2007-08 financial year.

Prisons: Sign Language

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many British Sign Language users worked in each prison at the latest date for which figures are available. [216997]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of prison staff or official visitors who are able to use British Sign Language is not collated centrally nor required to be recorded locally.

A number of staff based at prison establishments have chosen to learn British Sign Language (BSL), however there is no requirement for them to disclose or record this either locally or nationally. There are also organisations such as the Birmingham Institute for the Deaf (BID), the Royal Association of Deaf People, and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) who will put prisoners in touch with qualified signers who will visit the prisoner. Not all prisoners who have hearing difficulties will use BSL.

When a prisoner is identified as needing either an interpreter for BSL, or would benefit from receiving visits from someone who speaks BSL, the prison will arrange for an interpreter or suitable visitor through local or national support agencies.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Conflict: Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) which territories his Department considers as having being occupied at some time since 1954 for the purposes of the draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill; and for what period in each case; [213834]

(2) which territories his Department considers to be occupied for the purposes of the draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill. [213835]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: Under the draft bill the test for "occupied territory" is defined by reference to Article 42 of the 1907 Hague regulations respecting the laws and customs of war on land. This states that:

> "territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised".

The draft legislation provides that, in cases where there are legal proceedings, a Secretary of State may issue a certificate as to whether particular territory is occupied. However, such a certificate need not be given in all cases. Alternative evidence may be provided to prove the status of a particular territory.

The Government do not plan to produce a list of territories deemed to be occupied since 1954 for the purposes of the Bill. We are not aware that any of the 118 states parties to the convention, including those with a common law system, has done so.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212032]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies spent £1,229,788 on marketing and branding activity in the financial year 2007-08.

This total consists of £1,066,453 spent by Consular Directorate; £78,954 spent by Wilton Park; and £84,381 spent by FCO Services. Wilton Park and FCO Services are Executive agencies of the FCO, who undertake marketing and branding activities to promote their services.

Developing Countries: Security

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries to improve their national security. [216042]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 3 July 2008]*: In the National Security Strategy, the Government recognise our security as grounded in a set of core values including human rights, the rule of law, legitimate and accountable government, justice, freedom, tolerance and opportunity for all.

This broad concept of security extends to the Government's work internationally. For example, through the Conflict Prevention Pool, managed jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and amounting to £112 million in 2008-09, the Government fund activities in developing countries ranging from security sector reform to programmes supporting political reconciliation, judicial reform, peacekeeping training and respect for human rights. Over 50 per cent. of these funds are to be dispersed in Africa. DFID's White Paper (2006) recognises security as a precondition for development and as a result DFID is committed to spending £135 million on security and access to justice in thirteen countries in 2008-09.

The Government also provide direct assistance to a number of countries to support their security capability development, for example through the FCO's allocation of £35 million in 2008-09 to support efforts to counter threats from terrorism and radicalisation, or the MOD's overseas training programmes.

The UK also contributes to international organisations' assistance to developing countries to improve their national security including, for example, EU security sector reform missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau.

Lebanon: Elections

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to provide *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical support for the conduct of the 2009 parliamentary elections in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [216312]

David Miliband: The UK places great importance on free, fair and transparent elections in Lebanon in 2009, which take into account existing proposals for reform as agreed at the Doha conference.

The UK is working closely with the EU and UN, who have taken a lead on these issues. In June 2008, the EU sent two election experts to Lebanon to consider the technical feasibility of electoral reforms and to identify areas for EU support to help improve the electoral system in Lebanon. We fully support this and will continue to explore options to provide bilateral assistance in support of EU and UN efforts.

Lebanon: Security

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is providing to security sector reform in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [216298]

David Miliband: The UK continues to support President Suleiman and the Government of Lebanon in their efforts to maintain peace and security in Lebanon. During my visit to Lebanon in June 2008, I announced that the UK will provide, from this financial year, a £2 million programme of support to the Lebanese security sector.

This assistance includes the provision of £1 million of technical and training support to the army, police, customs and immigration services to improve Lebanon's border management. Last financial year, we provided some £500,000 of training and equipment to increase the ability of the Lebanese armed forces to maintain public order and made a contribution to an EU programme to improve the investigative capability of the Internal Security Forces. We are also providing a number of places on security courses in the UK to the Lebanese armed forces, including places at Sandhurst, Dartmouth, and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken since January 2008 to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah in June and July 2006; what representations he has received since January 2008 about this issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [214053]

Meg Munn: The Government welcome the announcement made on 1 July that the Israeli government and Hizbollah have come to an agreement that will ensure the return of the remains of Eldad Regev and Eldad Goldwasser who were kidnapped in July 2006. We call for the swift implementation of this agreement.

The Government continue to call for the unconditional and immediate release of Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped by Hamas in January 2006. The UK supports Egypt's mediation work on his case and remains in close touch with the Egyptian government on this issue.

The Government have not received any specific representations about the fate of these Israeli soldiers since January 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take steps at the United Nations to seek to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by (i) Hamas and (ii) Hezbollah in June and July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [214055]

Meg Munn: The Government welcome the announcement made on 1 July that the Israeli government and Hizbollah have come to an agreement that will ensure the return of the remains of Eldad Regev and Eldad Goldwasser who were kidnapped in July 2006. We call for the swift implementation of this agreement. The UK maintained close contact with the UN appointed facilitator during the negotiations.

The UN has not been involved in discussions on the case of Corporal Shalit, where the Government of Egypt is mediating. We remain in close contact with the Egyptian authorities, as well as the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority and continue to offer our support.

Religious Freedom: Christianity

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of incidents of the persecution of Christians in other countries on the grounds of apostasy during the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [213907]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has received a number of reports of incidents of persecution of Christians and apostasy that have taken place in different parts of the world including Iran, Pakistan, Egypt and Eritrea among others.

We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned.

We have discussed the issue of human rights abuses on the grounds of apostasy with Christian Solidarity Worldwide. They have agreed to keep the FCO informed of instances where apostates have suffered human rights abuses.

Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214128]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not impose a mandatory retirement age on staff below the Senior Management Structure (SMS)/Senior Civil Service (SCS). UK civil servants in these grades are free to choose when to stop working for the FCO.

The Civil Service has set centrally a mandatory retirement age of 65 for all staff in the SMS/SCS. No staff currently serving in the FCO in these grades has reached the mandatory retirement age since it was raised from 60 to 65 in October 2006.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the chairman of the African Union on increasing the number of AMISON troops in Somalia. [214466]

Meg Munn: We welcome the peace agreement between the Transitional Federal government and the Alliance for Re-Liberation of Somalia initialled on 9 June in Djibouti. The agreement calls for the deployment of an international stabilisation force in Somalia. The agreement is a positive step and we look forward to all parties fulfilling their commitment to cease armed confrontation in Somalia.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, attended the African Union (AU) summit in Sharm el Sheikh from 30 June to 1 July. At the summit, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown held a number of bilateral meetings with various members and representatives of the AU. As the main focus of the summit and bilateral meetings was Zimbabwe, the opportunity to raise the future of the AU Mission in Somalia did not arise. However, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown did meet with Ethiopian President Meles and Somali President Yusuf, with whom he discussed a possible international stabilisation force in Somalia.

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will place a copy of the policy document Exceptional Assistance Measures for Terrorist Incidents Overseas in the Library; [209365]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of guidance issued by his Department to British embassies and consulates on the implementation of the Exceptional Assistance Measures for terrorist incidents overseas. [209377]

David Miliband: Consular guidance is not placed in the Library of the House as a matter of routine. Guidance is meant for internal use only and is subject to change at any time.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there is a ceiling to the financial assistance offered under the Exceptional Assistance Measures for terrorist incidents overseas; and if he will make a statement. [209379]

David Miliband: As my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Meg Munn, made clear in her written ministerial statement of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 41WS, financial assistance is available for appropriate costs incurred by victims or families. There is no ceiling on the provision of assistance under the Exceptional Assistance Measures.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions the new Exceptional Assistance Measures for terrorist incidents overseas contain for financial support for the family members of victims of such incidents; and if he will make a statement. [209381]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State's (Meg Munn) written ministerial statement of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 41WS.

Torture

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to discourage other states from practising torture. [216045]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 3 July 2008]*: Although a large number of states have ratified various international conventions prohibiting torture, torture continues to be committed with impunity in many parts of the world. The UK remains fundamentally opposed to torture and continues to be one of the most active countries in the world in the fight to eradicate it.

For example, we continue to support wider ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT) through bilateral lobbying campaigns, EU demarches and our work in UN forums such as the Human Rights Council. We also use a combination of project work and diplomatic activity to encourage implementation of OPCAT, including by the establishment of national preventative mechanisms. Since OPCAT was opened for signature on 4 February 2003, 61 states have become a signatory. As of July 2008, 35 states have ratified OPCAT, most recently Guatemala in June 2008. This marks significant progress, although there is of course more to be done.

Further information on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) work in this field can be found in the FCO's 2007 Annual Human Rights Report, which is available on the FCO's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk

Zimbabwe: British Nationality

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to safeguard British nationals resident in Zimbabwe. [215842]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes its role of providing consular support to British nationals overseas seriously, and their safety is our top priority. As with many of our diplomatic missions across the world, our Embassy in Harare holds a Civil Contingency Plan. The Zimbabwe contingency plan focuses on assisting the departure of British nationals from Zimbabwe by non-military means and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The FCO Travel Advice for Zimbabwe is under constant review. We are currently advising against all travel to Zimbabwe at this time of high tension. We are advising those currently resident in Zimbabwe to continue to review their security arrangements, to keep themselves up to date with local developments and they are strongly advised to have their own contingency plan in place for how they would leave at short notice. A full copy of the Travel Advice can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel/zimbabwe.

If the situation in Zimbabwe deteriorates further, we will reflect this in our Travel Advice and provide appropriate guidance.

Zimbabwe: Deportation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary over deportations to Zimbabwe. [215929]

Meg Munn: There are no current plans to enforce returns to Zimbabwe. We are keeping the matter under review and will discuss this with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary when the situation changes.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on bringing pressure to bear on the Zimbabwe Government to conduct free and fair elections. [213842]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 June 2008]*: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, frequently discuss Zimbabwe with their Chinese counterparts. There were further discussions with senior diplomats in late June.

Zimbabwe: Travel Information

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department gives on the safety of travel to Zimbabwe for *(a)* Zimbabwean citizens and *(b)* citizens of other countries who have close links with the Movement for Democratic Change; and if he will make a statement. [215928]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides travel advice for all British nationals who intend to travel to, or live in, Zimbabwe. This advice is kept under constant review to ensure that it accurately reflects the risks of travel at any time. The latest advice for Zimbabwe and elsewhere can be found on the FCO's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

This advice would be freely available for people of any nationality to view.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to prevent absent parents from investing their income with a pension fund as a means of avoiding Child Support Agency payments. [216795]

Mr. Plaskitt: Very little evidence exists to suggest that non-resident parents are exploiting the current rules on pension contributions in a way which unreasonably reduces their child support liability.

When such cases arise, the Child Support Agency can adjust liabilities in specified exceptional circumstances where the usual rules may not operate fairly. For example, in either child support scheme, it is possible to adjust the child support liability where the net income of the non-resident parent used in the calculation is inconsistent with their lifestyle or unreasonably diverted. In such cases, this action will be considered by the Agency following an application by the parent with care.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 218-20W, on departmental standards, what the scope was of the Gateway Review undertaken in 2006-07 on his Department's project ID Cards. [215518]

Mrs. McGuire: Gateway Reviews deliver a 'peer review' in which independent practitioners from outside the programme/project use their experience and expertise to examine the progress and likelihood of successful delivery of the programme or project. They are used to provide a valuable additional perspective on the issues facing the internal team, and an external challenge to the robustness of plans and processes.

In 2006-07, the DWP ID Cards project was subject to a Gateway Review 1.

The OGC Gateway Review 1 is the first project review, which investigates the strategic business case and proposed way forward to confirm that the project is achievable and likely to deliver what is required.

The full scope of each Gateway Review is set out in the OGC Gateway™ Process documents which can be found on the OGC website at:

www.ogc.gov.uk

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 218-20W, on departmental standards, what the scope was of the Gateway Review undertaken in 2007-08 on his Department's project *(a)* DWP Change Programme, *(b)* Customer Information System r4, *(c)* Method of Payment Reform Programme and *(d)* Child Maintenance Redesign. [215519]

Mrs. McGuire: Gateway Reviews deliver a 'peer review' in which independent practitioners from outside the programme/project use their experience and expertise to examine the progress and likelihood of successful delivery of the programme or project. They are used to provide a valuable additional perspective on the issues facing the internal team, and an external challenge to the robustness of plans and processes.

In 2007-08, the following projects, listed in the question, were subject to Gateway Reviews.

Project	*Gateway*
DWP Change Programme	Gateway Review 0 Strategic Assessment
Method of Payment Reform	Gateway Review 0 Strategic Assessment
Child Maintenance Redesign	Gateway Review 0 Strategic Assessment
Customer Information System r4	Gateway Review 1 Business Justification

The OGC Gateway Review 0 is a programme-only review that sets the programme in the wider policy or corporate context. This review investigates the direction and planned outcomes of the programme, together with the progress of its constituent projects.

The OGC Gateway Review 1 is the first project review, which investigates the strategic business case and proposed way forward to confirm that the project is achievable and likely to deliver what is required.

The full scope of each Gateway Review is set out in the OGC Gateway™ Process documents which can be found on the OGC website at:

www.ogc.gov.uk

Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of working age adults with fewer than five GCSEs at grade A* to C were in employment in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [215926]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

> As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many and what proportion of working age adults were in employment in each local authority in each year since 1997 [215925]; and, how many and what proportion of working age adults with fewer than five GCSEs at grade A* to C were in employment in each local authority in each year since 1997. [215926]
>
> The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.
>
> Table 1 shows the number of working age persons in employment (Males aged 16-64, Females Aged 16-59) in each local authority for the 12 month periods ending in February, for 1998-2004, from the annual LFS, and for the 12 month periods ending December,

for 2004-2007, from the APS. Table 2 shows the percentage of persons of working age in employment for the same periods and geographies as Table 1.

Tables 3 and 4 show the number and proportion of working age persons in employment (Males aged 16-64, Females Aged 16-59) with fewer than 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C, or equivalent, in each local authority for the same periods as Table 1. Unfortunately, comparable data on qualifications are not available prior to 2001 for these geographies. Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the terms of reference for the housing benefit review his Department is undertaking; and if he will make a statement. [215924]

Mr. Plaskitt: The housing benefit (HB) review is an internal review that is being taken forward by Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions. As it is an internal review we do not have plans to publish the terms of reference. That said, the objectives of the review are centred on work incentives, efficiency, fairness, and value for money to the tax payer. The Budget 2008 statement highlights this remit in a little more detail at paragraph 4.14

> "Despite HB being available both in and out of work, it is still seen by some as a disincentive to work. Expenditure is also rising, even though the number of people claiming is forecast to remain static....... the Government will therefore undertake a comprehensive review of the working age HB system, to look at its effectiveness, particularly in promoting work incentives, efficiency and fairness and to ensure that it represents value for money for the taxpayer"

Budget 2008 [HC388] is available in the Library and online at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

There are no plans to make a further statement on the review at this stage.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to Jobcentre Plus districts on payment of discretionary housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [216068]

Mr. Plaskitt: Discretionary housing payments are administered by local authorities. The guidance for local authorities on the operation of these payments, "Discretionary Housing Payments: Best Practice Guide March 2008", has been placed in the Library.

This guidance is also available online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/manuals/DHPGoodPracticeGuide-v1.pdf

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of housing benefit claims were from households where the claimant was *(a)* 65 years old or more and *(b)* in work in each London local authority area in the last 12 months; and what the median processing time of the claims was in each case. [217102]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Children

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* five to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16 years are estimated to be living in households in receipt of incapacity benefit in each London local authority area. [210113]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, is in the following table.

Number of children dependent on a parent or guardian claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, London local authorities, April 2007

	Aged 0 to 4	*Aged 5 to 11*	*Aged 12 to 16*
City of London	10	15	10
Barking and Dagenham	680	1,160	995
Barnet	755	1,180	955
Bexley	350	580	585
Brent	1,055	1,580	1,325
Bromley	470	745	650
Camden	835	1,075	825
Croydon	735	1,225	1,195
Ealing	890	1,530	1,435
Enfield	1,165	1,770	1,520
Greenwich	705	1,140	1,070
Hackney	945	1,445	1,250
Hammersmith and Fulham	480	780	685
Haringey	975	1,500	1,235
Harrow	545	930	815
Havering	380	695	770
Hillingdon	655	1,010	900
Hounslow	645	1,080	970
Islington	720	1,035	915
Kensington and Chelsea	355	500	440
Kingston upon Thames	180	295	260
Lambeth	750	1,010	950
Lewisham	740	1,135	1,045
Merton	280	505	450
Newham	1,150	1,940	1,840
Red bridge	685	1,185	1,095
Richmond upon Thames	185	275	290
Southwark	775	1,125	1,070
Sutton	295	480	425
Tower Hamlets	1,280	2,115	1,805
Waltham Forest	835	1,245	1,185
Wandsworth	510	765	745
Westminster	980	1,370	925

Notes:

1. All figures supplied have been rounded to protect the confidentiality of claimants.

2. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.

3. The parent or guardian may be in receipt of other benefits.

4. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system, therefore children have been merged onto incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate

Incapacity Benefit: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of incapacity benefit in each parliamentary constituency in London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210110]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming incapacity benefits, is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in London, as at November 2007

Parliamentary constituency	*Number of claimants*
Barking	4,280
Battersea	3,430
Beckenham	3,090
Bethnal Green and Bow	6,940
Bexleyheath and Crayford	2,530
Brent East	4,870
Brent North	2,940
Brent South	4,860
Brentford and Isleworth	4,330
Bromley and Chislehurst	2,530
Camberwell and Peckham	5,330
Carshalton and Wallington	3,210
Chingford and Woodford Green	2,800
Chipping Barnet	2,960
Cities of London and Westminster	5,030
Croydon Central	4,340
Croydon North	5,120
Croydon South	2,720
Dagenham	4,110
Dulwich and West Norwood	4,440
Ealing Acton and Shepherd's Bush	5,770
Ealing North	4,300
Ealing Southall	5,670
East Ham	5,670
Edmonton	4,880
Eltham	3,550
Enfield North	4,570
Enfield Southgate	2,830
Erith and Thamesmead	4,810
Feltham and Heston	4,430
Finchley and Golders Green	3,370
Greenwich and Woolwich	5,160
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	5,700
Hackney South and Shoreditch	7,400
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,280
Hampstead and Highgate	4,640
Harrow East	4,060
Harrow West	2,860
Hayes and Harlington	3,640
Hendon	4,200
Holborn and St. Pancras	6,740
Hornchurch	2,330
Hornsey and Wood Green	4,900
Ilford North	3,450
Ilford South	4,670
Islington North	6,450
Islington South and Finsbury	5,840
Kensington and Chelsea	3,090
Kingston and Surbiton	2,890
Lewisham Deptford	4,380
Lewisham East	3,820
Lewisham West	4,170
Leyton and Wanstead	3,850
Mitcham and Morden	3,420
North Southwark and Bermondsey	6,230
Old Bexley and Sidcup	2,110
Orpington	2,900
Poplar and Canning Town	7,100
Putney	2,840
Regent's Park and North Kensington	8,870
Richmond Park	2,290
Romford	2,520
Ruislip-Northwood	2,010
Streatham	4,970
Sutton and Cheam	2,070
Tooting	3,280
Tottenham	7,270
Twickenham	2,440
Upminster	2,720
Uxbridge	2,730
Vauxhall	6,500
Walthamstow	4,350
West Ham	5,170
Wimbledon	1,660

Notes
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants by parliamentary constituency at November 2007, are published on the NOMIS website at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 percent WPLS

Income Support: Children

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* five to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16 years are estimated to be living in (i) single parent and (ii) other households in receipt of income support in each London local authority area. [210112]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of income support, has been placed in the Library.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with lone parents in receipt of income support are estimated to be living in *(a)* Regent's Park and Kensington North, *(b)* the London borough of Westminster and *(c)* each ward in the London borough of Westminster. [210111]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for lone parents claiming income support, is in the following table.

Number of lone parent income support claimants in Regent's Park and North Kensington parliamentary constituency and Westminster city council, by ward, as at November 2007

	Number
Regent's Park and North Kensington parliamentary constituency	3,500
All wards within Westminster city council	3,170
Abbey Road	50
Bayswater	75
Bryanston and Dorset Square	35
Church Street	415
Churchill	225
Harrow Road	370
Hyde Park	100
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	5
Lancaster Gate	95
Little Venice	115
Maida Vale	175
Marylebone High Street	25
Queen's Park	500
Regent's Park	110
St. James's	85
Tachbrook	70
Vincent Square	155
Warwick	80
West End	45
Westbourne	445

Notes

1. Parliamentary constituency and local authority figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Ward figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Numbers of income support lone parents by parliamentary constituency and ward at November 2007, are published on the NOMIS website at www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Lone Parents: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by working lone parents entitled to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit/local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215914]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the average amount unclaimed by couples with children, where one or both parents were working, who were entitled, to but not claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and housing benefit/local housing allowance, *(b)* council tax benefit and income support, *(c)* income support and housing benefit/local housing allowance and *(d)* income support, housing benefit/local housing allowance and council tax benefit, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [215921]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the average unclaimed weekly amounts of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". Copies of the report are available in the Library.

For working singles with children entitled to but not receiving housing benefit and council tax benefit the estimated average weekly unclaimed amount of those benefits in each of the past five years is given in the following table.

	Mean unclaimed HB and CTB (£)
2002-03	[1]
2003-04	45.50
2004-05	44.90
2005-06	51.10
2006-07	48.80

[1] Insufficient sample size.

Note:

Figures are in nominal terms and rounded to the nearest ten pence.

For couples with children where one or both parents are working and who are entitled to but not receiving housing benefit and council tax benefit the estimated average weekly unclaimed amount in each of the past five years is given in the table.

	Mean unclaimed HB and CTB (£)
2002-03	43.90
2003-04	51.00
2004-05	52.40
2005-06	60.90
2006-07	66.90

Notes

1. Figures are in nominal terms and rounded to the nearest ten pence.
2. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliabile results for the other groups requested.

Pathways to Work: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to spend on Pathways to Work programme costs in each of the next five years. [209688]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The available figures cover the period of the Government's spending plans to 2010-11.

Planned spending on Pathways to Work will increase to £300 million in 2008-09, £390 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11. Figures provided, particularly for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change.

Post Office Card Account: Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit payable to residents in Vale of Clwyd constituency was paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [214984]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 30 June 2008]*: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office car accounts in Vale of Clwyd in each of the last five years.

					December					
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Attendance Allowance	10		150	13	170	16	180	18	160	18
Bereavement Benefit					10	11	10	10		
Disability Living Allowance	20		730	15	890	18	870	18	860	17
Incapacity Benefit	10		340	14	480	19	460	19	410	17
Carers Allowance			150	18	170	20	150	18	140	16
Industrial Injuries			140	25	140	26	130	25	130	24
Income Support	50	1	560	17	840	26	720	24	750	23
Jobseekers Allowance	20	3	80	9	100	10	140	13	120	10
Pension Credit	10		1,140	25	1,720	36	1,710	35	1,660	33
State Pension	30		2,130	15	3,540	25	3,440	24	3,280	22
Severe Disablement Allowance			30	10	70	24	80	25	70	22
Widows Benefit		1	10	7	40	23	30	24	20	23
Total	140		5,470	17	8,170	24	7,990	24	7,620	22

Notes

1. Total numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child Benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate.

Post Office Card Account: Newport Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit paid to residents in Newport East constituency was deposited into a Post Office card account in each of the last five years. [216407]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in Newport, East in each of the last five years.

					December					
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Attendance Allowance		1	150	21	170	25	150	24	140	24
Bereavement Benefit							10	7		
Disability Living Allowance	20	1	650	17	810	22	800	21	810	20
Incapacity Benefit			370	16	550	23	530	23	490	22
Carers Allowance			130	18	170	22	150	19	150	19
Industrial Injuries			120	25	130	27	120	[illegible]	120	25
Income Support	20	1	800	24	1,170	36	1,110	34	1,010	31
Jobseeker's Allowance	30	3	130	16	240	24	230	20	210	21
Pension Credit	10		1,020	30	1,470	42	1,480	40	1,440	39
State Pension	20		2,220	19	3,410	28	3,270	27	3,110	25
Severe Disablement Allowance			10	9	40	27	40	29	40	28
Widows Benefit			10	3	30	20	30	21	30	24
Total	110		5,630	20	8,210	29	7,910	28	7,540	26

Notes

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child Benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are now administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate

Social Security

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what account the calculation of the amount allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district for the payment of discretionary housing payments takes of average private rental prices *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement; [216058]

(2) how much was allocated to each Jobcentre Plus district in the UK for expenditure on *(a)* exceptional hardship payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments in each year between 1991 and 2001; and if he will make a statement; [216059]

(3) how the amount allocated to Jobcentre Plus districts to pay *(a)* exceptional hardship payments and *(b)* exceptional circumstances payments was calculated; and if he will make a statement. [216067]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 821W.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed benefits in *(a)* each Scottish parliamentary constituency, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in the most recent period for which records are available, broken down by type of benefit claimed. [216644]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for the UK; information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

The available information for Great Britain, Scotland and constituencies has been placed in the Library

Social Security Benefits: Children

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of all children under 16 years old were living in households dependent on benefits in each parliamentary constituency in London in 2008. [210105]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the percentage of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, is shown in the following table.

Proportion of children under 16 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS), or pension credit (PC) in London parliamentary constituencies, as at April 2007

Proportion of children under 16 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS), or pension credit (PC) in London parliamentary constituencies, as at April 2007

	Percentage
Barking	35.3
Battersea	25.0
Beckenham	16.1
Bethnal Green and Bow	44.7
Bexleyheath and Crayford	16.8
Brent East	32.2
Brent North	22.9
Brent South	34.0
Brentford and Isleworth	22.0
Bromley and Chislehurst	14.6
Camberwell and Peckham	37.2
Carshalton and Wallington	20.2
Chingford and Woodford Green	21.4
Chipping Barnet	16.7
Cities of London and Westminster	22.8
Croydon Central	29.4
Croydon North	27.8
Croydon South	14.7
Dagenham	34.0
Dulwich and West Norwood	25.3
Ealing Acton and Shepherd's Bush	33.6
Ealing North	25.8
Ealing Southall	25.7
East Ham	33.1
Edmonton	37.1
Eltham	27.6
Enfield North	33.8
Enfield Southgate	17.3
Erith and Thamesmead	31.8
Feltham and Heston	28.4
Finchley and Golders Green	16.3
Greenwich and Woolwich	36.4
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	30.2
Hackney South and Shoreditch	44.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	29.1
Hampstead and Highgate	29.1
Harrow East	23.0
Harrow West	17.9
Hayes and Harlington	30.4
Hendon	25.6
Holborn and St. Pancras	41.2
Hornchurch	17.2
Hornsey and Wood Green	26.9
Ilford North	21.4
Ilford South	29.6
Islington North	41.4
Islington South and Finsbury	45.8
Kensington and Chelsea	15.1
Kingston and Surbiton	14.5
Lewisham Deptford	33.9
Lewisham East	33.6
Lewisham West	30.3
Leyton and Wanstead	28.4
Mitcham and Morden	24.5
North Southwark and Bermondsey	37.4
Old Bexley and Sidcup	10.8
Orpington	17.5
Poplar and Canning Town	46.8
Putney	23.9
Regent's Park and Kensington North	43.0
Richmond Park	10.0
Romford	17.6
Ruislip-Northwood	12.9
Streatham	31.3
Sutton and Cheam	11.6
Tooting	20.8
Tottenham	43.5
Twickenham	10.7
Upminster	18.8
Uxbridge	22.9
Vauxhall	37.7
Walthamstow	32.9
West Ham	36.1
Wimbledon	8.5

Notes

1. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically
2. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer systems; therefore children have been merged onto IS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC
3. The total numbers of children aged 0-15 on child benefit in each parliamentary constituency at the relevant year have been used as the denominator for the percentages given.

Source

DWP Information Directorate

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which 100 wards had the highest proportion of children dependent on benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [210106]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Proportion of children under 16 dependent on a parent or guardian who is claiming one or more of incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS), or pension credit (PC): the 100 wards with the highest proportion, as at April 2007

Local authority	*Ward*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Glasgow City	Keppochhill	62.3
Liverpool	Granby	61.9
Knowsley	Princess	61.6
Manchester	Moss Side	61.2
Liverpool	Vauxhall	60.7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	Pen-y-waun	59.6
Liverpool	Everton	59.4
Glasgow City	Bridgeton/Dalmarnock	59.3
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	Maerdy	58.7
Liverpool	Breckfield	58.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	West City	58.5
Swansea	Townhill	58.5
Redcar and Cleveland	Grangetown	58.3
Knowsley	Longview	57.5
Bristol, City of	Lawrence Hill	57.5
Glasgow City	Queenslie	57.4
Liverpool	Smithdown	57.2
North Lanarkshire	Craigneuk	56.7
Middlesbrough	Thorntree	56.6
Manchester	Harpurhey	56.4
Glasgow City	Royston	56.4
Westminster	Church Street	55.6
Salford	Pendleton	55.6
Knowsley	Cantril Farm	55.5
Sefton	Linacre	55.5
Glasgow City	Summerhill	55.2
Glasgow City	Hutchesontown	55.2
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Orchard Park and Greenwood	55.0
Glasgow City	Parkhead	54.7
Manchester	Hulme	54.6
Tower Hamlets	Bow East	54.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	Walker	54.4
Westminster	Westbourne	54.3
Edinburgh, City of	Craigmillar	54.3
Wrexham	Wynnstay	54.1
Glasgow City	Barlanark	54.1
Tendring	Rush Green	54.0
Tower Hamlets	East India and Lansbury	53.8
Salford	Blackfriars	53.6
Glasgow City	Glenwood	53.4
Caerphilly	Twyn Carno	53.3
Neath Port Talbot	Briton Ferry West	53.1
Swansea	Penderry	53.0
Glasgow City	Easterhouse	53.0
Wirral	Tranmere	52.7
Glasgow City	Ibrox	52.7
Liverpool	Speke	52.6
Hartlepool	Stranton	52.6
Wirral	Bidston	52.4
Merthyr Tydfil	Gurnos	52.3
Manchester	Beswick and Clayton	52.2
Cardiff	Butetown	52.2
Glasgow City	Springburn	52.2
Liverpool	Melrose	52.1
Wirral	Birkenhead	51.9
Newcastle upon Tyne	Monkchester	51.9
Denbighshire	Rhyl West	51.9
Manchester	Benchill	51.8
Bridgend	Bettws	51.7
Kensington and Chelsea	Golborne	51.2
Tendring	Golf Green	51.2
Tower Hamlets	Mile End East	51.0
Glasgow City	Milton	51.0
Nottingham	St. Ann's	50.8
Westminster	Queen's Park	50.7
Middlesbrough	Park End	50.7
Neath Port Talbot	Sandfields West	50.7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	Tylorstown	50.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	College Park and Old Oak	50.6
Salford	Langworthy	50.6
Haringey	Northumberland Park	50.5
Manchester	Central	50.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	Byker	50.5
Glasgow City	Wyndford	50.4
Manchester	Bradford	50.3
Glasgow City	Drumry	50.3
Renfrewshire	Ferguslie	50.3
Hackney	Hoxton	50.2
Telford and Wrekin	Woodside	50.2
Liverpool	Pirrie	50.1
Wrexham	Queensway	50.1
Manchester	Ardwick	50.0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Southcoates East	50.0
St. Helens	Parr and Hardshaw	49.9
Glasgow City	Braidfauld	49.9
Haringey	White Hart Lane	49.8
Islington	Bunhill	49.6
Manchester	Newton Heath	49.6
Liverpool	Kensington	49.5
Hackney	Wick	49.4
Tower Hamlets	Limehouse	49.3
Knowsley	Northwood	49.3
Liverpool	Abercromby	49.3
Nottingham	Aspley	49.2
Glasgow City	Merchant City	49.1
Brent	Stonebridge	49.0
Cardiff	Ely	49.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	Wormholt and White City	48.8
Islington	Finsbury Park	48.8
Sandwell	Soho and Victoria	48.8

Notes:
1. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
2. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer systems; therefore children have been merged onto IS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
3. The total numbers of children aged 0-15 on child benefit in each parliamentary constituency at the relevant year have been used as the denominator for the percentages given.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were estimated to be living in households on (*a*) any benefits, (*b*) income support only, (*c*) jobseekers allowance, (*d*) incapacity benefit, (*e*) disability living allowance and (*f*) income support and incapacity benefit in 2008. [219108]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, is shown in the following table:

Children aged under 16 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of income support (IS), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), incapacity benefit (IB) or severe disablement allowance (SDA), and disability living allowance (DLA), Great Britain, as at April 2007

	Number
Any benefits	2,304,870
Income support only (not in receipt of IB/SDA or DLA)	1,388,030
Jobseeker's allowance	164,550
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	600,980
of which: are incapacity benefit	570,210
of which: are severe disablement allowance	30,770
Disability living allowance	374,265
Income support and IB/SDA	222,205

Notes
1. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
2. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system, therefore children have been merged onto IS/JSA/IB/SDA and pension credit (PC) claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
3. IB/SDA claimants may also be in receipt of IS/PC and/or DLA. Disability living allowance claimants may also be in receipt of IS/PC and/or IB/SDA.
4. 'Any benefits' means one or more of IS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC/DLA.
5. Figures for individual benefits do not sum to the total for any benefits due to overlaps in benefits.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in households dependent on benefits in each local authority ward in Westminster in 2008. [210109]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, is shown in the following table:

Children aged under 16 dependent on a parent or guardian claiming one or more of incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS) or pension credit (PC) in Westminster city council wards, as at April 2007

	Number
Abbey Road	145
Bayswater	175
Bryanston and Dorset Square	105
Churchill	720
Church Street	1,490
Harrow Road	1,010
Hyde Park	275
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	[illegible]
Lancaster Gate	270
Little Venice	420
Maida Vale	600
Marylebone High Street	70
Queen's Park	1,525
Regent's Park	340
St. James's	280
Tachbrook	195
Vincent Square	425
Warwick	210
Westbourne	1,560
West End	115

Notes
1. All figures supplied have been rounded.
2. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer systems, therefore children have been merged onto IS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of each type of state benefit paid to residents in Warrington North constituency was paid into Post Office card accounts in each of the last five years. [217124]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the precise format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of state benefit payments paid into Post Office card accounts in Warrington, North in each of the last five years.

	December									
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Attendance Allowance			80	13	100	17	110	18	100	19
Bereavement Benefit							10	8	10	6
Disability Living Allowance	30	1	710	15	840	19	810	18	810	17
Incapacity Benefit			360	13	490	19	490	19	450	17
Carers Allowance			160	20	190	23	180	22	160	19
Industrial Injuries	60	7	150	20	160	22	150	20	130	19
Income Support	10		600	18	930	29	890	28	870	27
Jobseeker's Allowance			50	6	220	21	270	22	240	22
Pension Credit	30	1	1,060	26	1,620	38	1,560	37	1,480	35
State Pension	140	1	2,260	16	3,370	24	3,170	22	2,980	20
Severe Disablement Allowance			30	9	70	19	70	20	60	18

	December									
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Widows Benefit			30	11	40	18	30	19	30	18
Total	270	1	5,480	17	8,050	25	7,740	24	7,310	22

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to the nearest whole per cent.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child Benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are now administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.
Source:
DWP, Information Directorate

Unemployment Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which ward in each local authority area in England has the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest proportion of households receiving workless benefits. [210011]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those claiming a relevant benefit, has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which 50 parliamentary constituencies had the highest *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of households in receipt of (i) jobseekers allowance, (ii) income support and (iii) incapacity benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available; [210015]

(2) which 50 local authority areas had the highest proportion of working age households in receipt of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210116]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for those who are claiming a relevant benefit, has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment Benefits: Children

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which 50 local authority areas had the highest proportion of children living in households in receipt of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210014]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the proportion of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which 50 parliamentary constituencies had the highest proportion of children living in households in receipt of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210016]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the proportions of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, has been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children are estimated to be living in households in receipt of *(a)* income support and *(b)* incapacity benefit in each (i) borough and (ii) parliamentary constituency in London. [210114]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers of children who have a parent or guardian in receipt of a relevant benefit, has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment Benefits: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working age households were in receipt of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in each London parliamentary constituency in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [210107]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for households in the format requested. The available information, which is for the numbers in receipt of each benefit, is in the following table.

Number of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, income support and jobseeker's allowance claimants in London

November each year

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance			Income support			Jobseekers allowance		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Barking	4,420	4,360	4,240	5,930	5,890	5,790	2,010	1,960	1,820
Battersea	3,530	3,490	3,400	4,080	4,150	3,940	1,960	1,780	1,360
Beckenham	3,100	3,100	3,050	3,230	3,240	3,120	1,430	1,250	1,080
Bethnal Green and Bow	6,890	6,850	6,910	8,850	8,810	8,680	4,410	4,750	4,170
Bexleyheath and Crayford	2,490	2,470	2,480	2,320	2,380	2,340	950	940	700
Brent East	4,950	4,860	4,820	5,760	5,780	5,590	2,620	2,750	2,320

Number of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, income support and jobseeker's allowance claimants in London

November each year

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance			Income support			Jobseekers allowance		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Brent North	2,900	2,900	2,880	3,060	3,080	3,000	1,250	1,240	920
Brent South	5,030	4,930	4,820	6,250	6,220	5,870	2,850	2,920	2,430
Brentford and Isleworth	4,380	4,310	4,290	4,660	4,650	4,550	1,610	1,530	1,220
Bromley and Chislehurst	2,500	2,450	2,400	2,420	2,510	2,490	990	1,000	810
Camberwell and Peckham	8,320	8,270	8,310	7,210	7,120	6,970	3,220	3,080	2,740
Carshalton and Wallington	3,110	3,200	3,140	3,340	3,350	3,430	1,200	1,160	970
Chingford and Woodford Green	2,700	2,750	2,760	2,830	2,930	2,990	1,200	1,220	1,040
Chipping Barnet	2,810	2,910	2,910	2,990	3,060	3,070	1,250	1,260	980
Cities of London and Westminster	4,880	4,830	4,900	4,690	4,720	4,770	1,930	1,880	1,610
Croydon Central	4,300	4,330	4,280	5,750	5,840	5,680	1,890	1,880	1,560
Croydon North	5,130	5,100	5,070	6,400	6,500	6,470	2,870	3,010	2,440
Croydon South	2,590	2,670	2,650	2,550	2,620	2,600	900	870	750
Dagenham	4,230	4,120	4,060	5,210	5,290	5,380	1,920	1,920	1,670
Dulwich and West Norwood	4,590	4,540	4,400	5,710	5,690	5,530	2,580	2,500	1,970
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	5,710	5,610	5,710	6,900	6,930	6,790	2,580	2,650	2,250
Ealing North	4,300	4,320	4,250	5,270	5,300	5,120	1,960	2,010	1,570
Ealing Southall	5,760	5,610	5,590	5,550	5,510	5,420	2,570	2,490	2,130
East Ham	5,530	5,630	5,650	7,780	7,840	7,660	3,040	3,140	2,620
Edmonton	4,980	4,880	4,860	6,770	6,850	7,000	2,770	2,720	2,200
Eltham	3,520	3,460	3,510	4,000	4,060	4,040	1,460	1,530	1,170
Enfield North	4,630	4,570	4,510	5,830	5,980	6,100	2,020	2,040	1,750
Enfield Southgate	2,900	2,810	2,780	2,790	2,780	2,780	1,510	1,410	1,090
Erith and Thamesmead	4,710	4,790	4,760	6,360	6,520	6,400	2,440	2,470	1,940
Feltham and Heston	4,590	4,430	4,390	5,220	5,160	5,080	1,730	1,690	1,430
Finchley and Golders Green	3,340	3,310	3,310	3,650	3,590	3,600	1,700	1,670	1,220
Greenwich and Woolwich	5,130	5,120	5,110	6,800	6,710	6,580	2,580	2,340	1,850
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	5,980	5,790	5,670	8,110	7,940	7,650	3,220	3,370	2,930
Hackney South and Shoreditch	7,390	7,370	7,370	10,610	10,450	10,150	3,870	4,160	3,470
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,380	5,320	5,240	6,280	6,250	6,030	2,360	2,300	1,960
Hampstead and Highgate	4,840	4,600	4,590	5,550	5,370	5,190	2,090	1,950	1,560
Harrow East	3,980	3,930	3,980	4,020	4,110	4,150	1,690	1,690	1,180
Harrow West	2,950	2,840	2,820	3,040	3,040	2,900	1,230	1,110	970
Hayes and Harlington	3,720	3,630	3,600	4,390	4,620	4,590	1,730	1,530	1,290
Hendon	4,060	4,160	4,140	5,380	5,430	5,320	2,010	1,880	1,470
Holborn and St Pancras	7,000	6,770	6,680	8,270	7,980	7,640	3,120	2,880	2,220
Hornchurch	2,450	2,360	2,280	2,090	2,140	2,100	780	790	700
Hornsey and Wood Green	5,100	4,960	4,840	6,100	6,030	5,750	2,660	2,670	2,200
Ilford North	3,590	3,530	3,400	3,580	3,580	3,650	1,230	1,320	1,080
Ilford South	4,610	4,620	4,620	5,350	5,650	5,680	2,410	2,470	2,070
Islington North	6,630	6,490	6,420	8,180	8,040	7,680	3,130	3,160	2,600
Islington South and Finsbury	5,810	5,780	5,790	7,760	7,610	7,490	2,530	2,340	2,100
Kensington and Chelsea	3,190	3,120	3,070	3,180	3,130	3,100	1,370	1,250	1,050
Kingston and Surbiton	2,840	2,930	2,860	2,680	2,790	2,750	1,090	1,000	810
Lewisham Deptford	4,290	4,340	4,340	5,750	5,790	5,830	2,820	2,550	2,150
Lewisham East	3,790	3,770	3,780	4,770	5,010	4,970	1,840	1,780	1,480
Lewisham West	4,020	4,100	4,130	5,090	5,220	5,300	2,380	2,270	1,760
Leyton and Wanstead	3,880	3,850	3,800	4,790	4,710	4,540	2,220	2,270	1,880
Mitcham and Morden	3,310	3,370	3,380	4,050	4,100	4,070	2,080	1,930	1,410
North Southwark and Bermondsey	6,260	6,300	6,180	8,180	8,070	7,900	3,370	3,230	2,680
Old Bexley and Sidcup	2,050	2,050	2,070	1,590	1,630	1,660	690	720	550
Orpington	2,870	2,890	2,850	2,860	2,950	2,980	1,140	1,030	840
Poplar and Canning Town	7,120	7,090	7,060	10,650	10,540	10,110	4,290	4,750	4,320
Putney	2,910	2,860	2,800	3,240	3,280	3,210	1,210	1,110	910
Regent's Park and North Kensington	8,800	8,780	8,780	10,750	10,820	10,540	3,160	3,230	2,640
Richmond Park	2,210	2,270	2,260	2,190	2,210	2,120	950	820	660
Romford	2,500	2,460	2,470	2,240	2,240	2,280	780	820	710
Ruislip-Northwood	2,020	1,980	1,970	1,870	1,870	1,850	810	700	590
Streatham	5,060	5,020	4,920	6,650	6,620	6,460	3,310	3,140	2,750
Sutton and Cheam	2,020	2,020	2,010	1,700	1,740	1,770	880	760	610
Tooting	3,360	3,340	3,230	3,630	3,610	3,600	1,760	1,670	1,300

Number of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, income support and jobseeker's allowance claimants in London

November each year

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance			*Income support*			*Jobseekers allowance*		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Tottenham	7,490	7,280	7,220	10,730	10,720	10,320	5,050	4,820	3,960
Twickenham	2,390	2,380	2,380	2,220	2,230	2,170	940	890	630
Upminster	2,740	2,710	2,670	2,400	2,450	2,430	820	830	680
Uxbridge	2,650	2,600	2,670	2,930	2,950	2,890	970	1,040	790
Vauxhall	6,720	6,660	6,460	8,930	8,760	8,280	3,930	3,730	3,210
Walthamstow	4,320	4,270	4,300	5,620	5,650	5,600	2,940	3,140	2,670
West Ham	5,220	5,190	5,140	7,000	6,980	6,680	2,880	3,070	2,740
Wimbledon	1,750	1,700	1,630	1,500	1,480	1,400	840	790	610

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Due to possible benefit overlaps the figures cannot be summed.
3. Numbers of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and jobseeker's allowance claimants by parliamentary constituency are published on the NOMIS website at www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how frequently his Department restates the asset values of its building estate. [213404]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's building estate is revalued every five years. The one UK owned property, in East Kilbride, was last valued in April 2006.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216420]

Mr. Malik: The number of Department for International Development (DFID) staff that have access to the Department's infrastructure from home is 1,788. This is based on the number of laptops that have been issued to staff. These laptops are capable of connecting remotely to the DFID IT infrastructure and are fully encrypted.

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215890]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has taken a number of steps to reduce waste in recent years. These include:

Using tap water rather than bottled water for all meetings and official business;

Reducing the number of printers in the office and ensuring that these are all set to print double-sided as default, to reduce the amount of paper used;

Replaced disposable cups in our staff restaurant in London with glasses, and reduced the use of condiments, etc., in individual sachets;

Ensured that redundant IT equipment is reused wherever possible, i.e. through donation to charitable organisations;

Increased the number of recycling containers so that paper, etc., is sorted separately.

In the last Sustainable Development in Government report (2007) published by the Sustainable Development Commission, DFID was confirmed to have reduced its waste by 9.6 per cent. in 2006-07 against the Government baseline of 2004-05, so has already met the target to reduce by 5 per cent. by 2010. We also recycled 80.9 per cent. of our waste, meeting the Government target.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215463]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development is committed to responding to written parliamentary questions promptly. Since the start of the 2007-08 Session to date:

(a) 78 per cent. of 1,091 ordinary written questions have been answered within five sitting days.

(b) 87 per cent. of 217 named day questions have been answered on the day specified.

Information to the level of detail requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what standards are used to identify nations that qualify as poor countries under the expanded guidelines of the Export Credit Agency. [215598]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

In January 2008, the Export Credit Group of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) adopted a set of "Principles and Guidelines to promote Sustainable Lending Practices in the Provision of Official Export Credits to Low Income Countries" see:

http://www.oecd.org

Alongside all other OECD member Export Credit Agencies (ECAs), the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is implementing these principles and guidelines (taking into account its own existing 'Productive Expenditure' guidelines), which seek to ensure that ECAs support export credits responsibly to those poor countries that are especially vulnerable to debt servicing problems.

The relevant countries are defined and listed in the OECD Principles and Guidelines. They are mainly those that have access to assistance from the International Development Association (IDA), part of the World Bank, and include most of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) as classified by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on the promotion of human rights related to HIV. [215480]

Gillian Merron: During the development of the UK's updated strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world, "Achieving Universal Access", Department for International Development (DFID) officials consulted with officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) about the role of the FCO in promoting and protecting human rights in the context of HIV. HIV/AIDS is a cross-government priority and, as outlined in "Achieving Universal Access", the FCO will work with DFID to ensure broad and effective UK support to international and national AIDS responses that promote and protect human rights.

A copy of the updated strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes are organised by his Department that promote integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, as referred to in his most recent Departmental report. [217022]

Gillian Merron: The UK is strongly committed to both universal access to AIDS services and universal access to reproductive health; both commitments the UK helped to secure in 2007. The UK's updated AIDS strategy, 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world', emphasises the importance of integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights with actions to prevent new HIV and AIDS infections.

The promotion of male and female condom use and integrating condom promotion into sexual and reproductive health and rights services have a vital role in HIV prevention, especially in concentrated epidemics, where HIV is found among recognised high risk groups. Examples of the Department for International Development's (DFID) programmes which promote integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights services include a £52.8 million programme in Nigeria to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights for the prevention of HIV and £100 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to increase access to reproductive health commodities.

A copy of the updated strategy 'Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world' and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Indonesia: Environment Protection

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are for the fund his Department is establishing in Indonesia to be managed by the Indonesian Bio Diversity Foundation; when it will begin operating; when it is expected to cease operating; and whether the fund will support *(a)* government and *(b)* private sector projects. [213798]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The objectives for the fund are to reduce and eliminate illegal logging, to achieve poverty reduction through community-based forest management and to support reforms for reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation. The agreement was signed in February this year and runs until October 2010.

The fund will finance both government and civil society projects. Projects include implementing a European Union-Indonesia voluntary partnership agreement on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, legal reforms to reduce corruption, community-based forest management and strengthening local community foundations in six regions.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to improve the UK's position in the UN Commitment to Development Index. [217028]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Centre for Global Developments' Commitment to Development Index (CDI) and sponsored the 2007 launch event at which I spoke. The UK is ranked 9th out of the 21 countries assessed in the index, an improvement of three places on the previous year.

DFID works across Government, through the European Union and the OECD and internationally to promote policy coherence for development (which the CDI measures). Our achievements and success are set out in DFID's 2007 Annual Report. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

An example includes the establishment of a Joint Trade Policy Unit with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure coherence between our aid and trade agendas.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the European Commission's aim to co-ordinate all external policies that interwine with development objectives affect his Department's relationship with other board aid organisations, as referred to in his Department's most recent departmental report. [217041]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that I gave on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 491W.

Southern Perspectives

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to the Southern Perspectives project. [215595]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £83,677 in 2007-08 to the North-South Institute project on "Southern Perspectives on Reform of the International Architecture Phase II". The project was also supported by Canada, Norway and Sweden, and is now completed. DFID also contributed £70,022 in 2005-06 to the first phase of the project, which was a "Study to Present a Developing Country Perspective on the Current Structure and Functioning of the International Development Architecture".

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cancer: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with cancer in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London in each of the last five years. [216881]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with cancer in (a) Bexley and (b) London in each of the last five years [216881]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer are for the year 2005. Figures requested are given in the table below.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of cancer[1] registered in Bexley local authority and London government office region, 2001 to 2005

Persons

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Bexley	984	946	955	1,002	955
London	26,448	26,159	26,782	25,863	25,818

[1] All cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): C00-C97 excluding C44

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Cost of Living

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effects of fuel prices on the cost of living; and if he will make a statement. [215965]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what assessment has been made of the effects of fuel prices on the cost of living. (215965)

The Retail Prices Index (RPI) and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), both measure the change in the prices of goods and services bought for the purpose of consumption by the vast majority of households in the UK.

For the RPI, petrol and oil increased by 18.4 per cent between May 2007 and May 2008. This represents a contribution of 0.7 percentage points to the overall RPI rate of 4.3 per cent. Similarly, for the CPI fuels and lubricants increased by 19.5 per cent between May 2007 and May 2008. This represents a contribution of 0.7 percentage points to the overall CPI rate of 3.3 per cent.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08; [215197]

(2) what the average cost to the Prime Minister's Office was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215185]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

As at 31 March 2008 there were 16 Press Officers in the Cabinet Office in a number of different grades. Information on the average cost to the Department of a press officer would be available only at disproportionate costs.

Press Officers usually fall within the Technical and Information Specialists pay bands (TIS grades), with senior press officers falling in Pay Band A.

Copies of the Cabinet Office pay scales have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* employees and *(b)* full-time equivalent employees there are in each sub-division of (i) the Prime Minister's Office and (ii) the Cabinet Office. [215153]

Mr. Watson: The annual departmental reports for the Cabinet Office contain details of staffing within each division of the Department. Copies are available in the Library. The departmental report for 2008 is expected to be published before the summer recess.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average fully-loaded cost is of a full-time equivalent member of staff of his Department working in Whitehall. [215783]

Mr. Watson: Details of the average fully loaded cost of a full-time equivalent member of staff working in Whitehall, is not held centrally and is therefore only available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1217W, on departmental ministerial policy advisers, which staff members in the Prime Minister's Office *(a)* have received severance payment and *(b)* have not received severance payments in each of the last five years. [211895]

Mr. Watson: Paragraph 14b of the Model Contract for Special Advisers sets out the circumstances in which severance is paid. It would not be appropriate to disclose names of individuals who have received severance in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much sick pay to staff in the Cabinet Office cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211859]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not currently publish the cost of absence and the calculation of this information would represent a disproportionate cost.

Employment: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were in employment in the North East in each quarter since January 2003, calculated with reference to the December 2007 changes in methodology, broken down by *(a)* employees, *(b)* self-employed, *(c)* the armed forces and *(d)* trainees. [216745]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were in employment in the North East in each quarter since January 2003, calculated with reference to the December 2007 changes in methodology, broken down by (a) employees, (b) self-employed, (c) the armed forces and (d) trainees. [216745].

The Workforce Jobs estimates combine Employee Jobs figures with self employment jobs from the Labour Force Survey, as well as HM Forces jobs figures and the number of government-supported trainees. However, HM Forces job estimates are only available at a national level.

The attached table provides estimates of employee jobs, self-employment jobs and government-supported trainees, for the North East for each quarter from December 2002 to March 2008, the latest available.

However, there is a discontinuity in the employee jobs series between December 2005 and September 2006, which means we are unable to calculate the time series on a consistent basis across its full length. The change in December 2007 made improvements to the annual benchmark and the quality of estimates of employment. More information about revisions to the Workforce Jobs series can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=9765

Civilian regional Workforce Job estimates are published as part of the quarterly regional labour market statistics first release and can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15084

Number of jobs in the North East, 2002-08

Thousand (not seasonally adjusted)

	Civilian work force jobs	*Employee jobs*	*Self employment jobs*	*Government-supported trainees*
2002				
December	1,104	1,005	93	6
2003				
March	1,098	993	98	6
June	1,110	999	105	6
September	1,116	999	111	7
December	1,131	1,014	109	7
2004				
March	1,125	1,007	110	7
June	1,116	1,003	106	7
September	1,131	1,017	106	8
December	1,121	1,015	98	8
2005				
March	1,129	1,028	93	8
June	1,142	1,039	96	7
September	1,170	1,054	108	7
December	1,184	1,064	113	7
2006				
March	1,167	1,042	118	6
June	1,171	1,047	119	5
September	1,172	1,046	121	4
December	1,181	1,059	118	4
2007				
March	1,169	1,047	117	4
June	1,183	1,050	130	3
September	1,183	1,053	126	4
December	1,197	1,068	125	4
2008				
March	1,184	1,058	122	4

Notes:

1. Workforce Jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For example, if a person holds two jobs, each job will be counted in the total.
2. Estimates of HM Forces Jobs using Workforce Jobs are not available below the national level.
3. There is a discontinuity in the employee jobs series between December 2005 and September 2006 due to improvements to the annual benchmark. Further information can be found at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/Statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=9765

Source:

Workforce Jobs Series

National Income: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the gross value-added (GVA) figure per head for each NUTS 2 region in the North East is; what proportion of UK GVA each represents; and what each figure was in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2005. [216744]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about gross value added (GVA) for each NUTS2 region in the North East. (216744)

The latest data available for the NUTS2 regions are for 2005. Data for 2006 will be published in December 2008. The table below shows the GVA, the proportions of UK GVA of the North East regions, GVA per head and the per head index of the NUTS2 regions for the North East in 2005.

Regional GVA for the NUTS 2 regions of the North East, 2005

Region	*Total GVA £ billion*[1]	*Share of UK Percentage*	*Per head £*	*Per head index*
United Kingdom[2]	1096.6	100	18,205	100
North East	37	3	14,419	81
North East NUTS 2 Regions				
Tees Valley and Durham	15	1	13,097	73
Northumberland and Tyne and Wear	22	2	15,518	87

[1] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

[2] UK total includes extra regio (offshore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region), but the per head index excludes extra regio.

Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many men *(a)* were offered and *(b)* accepted first line hormone therapy to treat metastatic prostate cancer in each of the last three years. [216755]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men *(a)* were offered and *(b)* accepted first line hormone therapy to treat metastatic prostate cancer in each of the last three years. (216755)

The number of men who *(a)* were offered treatments for prostate cancer is not recorded on the national cancer registration system.

The statistics relate to all cases of prostate cancer since the recording of "stage" in the cancer register cannot provide nationally comparable data on metastatic prostate cancer.

The following table shows, for 2003-05, the number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer *(b)* receiving hormone therapy treatment. The latest year for which data are available is 2005. In 45 per cent. of prostate cancer cases in the national cancer registry database, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having had no treatment.

Newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1] receiving hormonal treatment England, 2003-05

2003	8,124
2004	8,277
2005	7,954

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of births were to teenage mothers in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust area. [216554]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of births were to teenage mothers in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust area. (216554)

The table provides the percentage of live births which were to mothers aged under 20 years, in each primary care organisation in England, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in each of the last 10 years. [216556]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenagers gave birth in each constituency in each of the last 10 years. (216556)

The table provides the number of maternities to mothers aged under 20 years, in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Teenage Pregnancy: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the conception rate for women under 18 years living in *(a)* wards with a benefit claim rate of 25 per cent. or above and *(b)* wards in the 10 local authority districts with the lowest employment rates which have benefit claim rates between 20 and 25 per cent. was in each year since 1997. [216670]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate for women under 18 years living in (a) wards with a benefit claim rate of 25 per cent or above and (b) wards in the 10 local authority districts with the lowest employment rates which have benefit claim rates between 20 and 25 per cent was in each year since 1997. (216670)

Conception rates by ward are not available.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on trades unions, if he will place a copy of each partnership agreement in the Library. [215143]

Mr. Watson: Yes.

Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months. [210587]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what training courses run by external organisations were attended by staff of 10 Downing street in the last 12 months. [210877]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office staff have the opportunity to develop and improve their skills continuously in, accordance with our commitment to Investors in People and in line with Professional Skills for Government.

In addition, management units across the Cabinet Office arrange training to fulfil local skills needs with a wide range of external training providers. Detailed information relating to training activity of this kind is not held centrally by the Department.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was awarded for personalised learning and pupil support *(a)* in England and *(b)* to each local education authority (LEA) in 2007-08, expressed (i) as a cash sum and (ii) per head of the LEA-supported pupil population. [216743]

Jim Knight: The Comprehensive Spending Review for the period 2008-11 allocated the following funding for personalised learning and Special Educational Needs through the Dedicated Schools Grant:

	£ million
2008-09	330
2009-10	535
2010-11	912

The further information requested is contained in a table. LA awards for 2009 2010 and 2010-11 are not yet available.

Funding for Personalised Learning and Special Educational Needs for 2008-09 by local authority

Local authority	*Personalised Learning & SEN (£ million) 2008/09*	*Amount per Pupil (£) 2008/09*
City of London	0.013	53.50
Camden	1.091	54.66
Greenwich	1.813	55.70
Hackney	1.320	54.32
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.801	53.32
Islington	[illegible]	55.82
Kensington and Chelsea	[illegible]	51.88
Lambeth	1.549	53.70
Lewisham	1.718	55.08
Southwark	1.580	54.19
Tower Hamlets	2.002	56.53
Wandsworth	1.474	54.04
Westminster	0.927	54.52
Barking and Dagenham	1.410	47.55
Barnet	2.148	50.21
Bexley	1.723	48.73
Brent	1.912	50.55
Bromley	2.098	48.25
Croydon	2.261	47.64
Ealing	2.012	50.11
Enfield	2.285	48.57
Haringey	1.540	48.01
Harrow	1.510	51.27
Havering	1.741	48.86
Hillingdon	1.921	50.68
Hounslow	1.674	51.36
Kingston upon Thames	0.976	50.68
Merton	1.038	48.77
Newham	2.285	47.79
Redbridge	1.980	48.02
Richmond upon Thames	1.040	49.21
Sutton	1.457	51.40
Waltham Forest	1.662	47.58
Birmingham	7.538	44.85
Coventry	2.043	44.72
Dudley	2.181	45.75
Sandwell	2.004	44.50
Solihull	1.480	45.41
Walsall	1.942	45.49
Wolverhampton	1.630	45.42
Knowsley	1.009	44.79
Liverpool	2.732	44.78
St. Helens	1.150	44.60
Sefton	1.802	45.05
Wirral	2.089	44.77
Bolton	1.958	45.27
Bury	1.246	45.00
Manchester	2.753	44.76
Oldham	1.738	45.00
Rochdale	1.449	44.82
Salford	1.348	44.87
Stockport	1.719	44.89
Tameside	1.567	45.63
Trafford	1.514	44.91
Wigan	2.108	45.59
Barnsley	1.435	44.59
Doncaster	1.915	44.40
Rotherham	1.864	44.97
Sheffield	3.063	44.11
Bradford	3.513	44.15
Calderdale	1.430	44.41
Kirklees	2.713	44.39
Leeds	4.450	44.43
Wakefield	2.128	45.50
Gateshead	1.142	44.33
Newcastle upon Tyne	1.485	43.95
North Tyneside	1.211	44.38
South Tyneside	0.956	44.83
Sunderland	1.814	45.07
Bath and North East Somerset	1.114	46.80
Bristol, City of	1.971	43.61
North Somerset	1.294	46.56
South Gloucestershire	1.783	46.72
Hartlepool	0.652	44.92
Middlesbrough	0.805	43.82
Redcar and Cleveland	0.982	45.20

Funding for Personalised Learning and Special Educational Needs for 2008-09 by local authority

Local authority	*Personalised Learning & SEN (£ million) 2008-09*	*Amount per Pupil (£) 2008-09*
Stockton-on-Tees	1.240	44.23
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	1.592	44.41
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.107	45.56
North East Lincolnshire	0.952	44.05
North Lincolnshire	1.085	44.94
North Yorkshire	3.609	44.76
York	1.009	44.56
Bedfordshire	2.804	47.01
Luton	1.392	45.49
Buckinghamshire	3.415	48.36
Milton Keynes	1.742	47.83
Derbyshire	4.770	44.85
Derby	1.603	44.60
Dorset	2.389	45.29
Poole	0.799	44.45
Bournemouth	0.885	44.28
Durham	3.082	45.00
Darlington	0.628	43.92
East Sussex	2.952	45.84
Brighton and Hove	1.327	44.42
Hampshire	8.160	46.46
Portsmouth	1.131	46.00
Southampton	1.293	45.78
Leicestershire	4.064	44.91
Leicester	2.016	44.35
Rutland	0.223	43.95
Staffordshire	5.238	44.70
Stoke-on-Trent	1.499	43.88
Wiltshire	2.902	45.39
Swindon	1.276	44.95
Bracknell Forest	0.733	49.36
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.923	51.06
West Berkshire	1.181	50.70
Reading	0.758	48.63
Slough	1.010	49.59
Wokingham	1.129	51.27
Cambridgeshire	3.614	46.27
Peterborough	1.219	45.97
Cheshire	4.381	45.44
Halton	0.835	45.26
Warrington	1.374	45.23
Devon	4.204	44.76
Plymouth	1.575	44.76
Torbay	0.787	44.59
Essex	8.988	46.31
Southend-on-Sea	1.155	45.37
Thurrock	1.072	47.30
Herefordshire	1.026	44.42
Worcestershire	3.374	44.49
Kent	8.956	45.44
Medway	1.831	45.07
Lancashire	7.408	44.65
Blackburn with Darwen	1.101	44.30
Blackpool	0.931	44.90
Nottinghamshire	4.887	44.80
Nottingham	1.553	43.89
Shropshire	1.716	44.32
Telford and Wrekin	1.089	44.07
Cornwall	3.155	45.10
Cumbria	3.124	45.16
Gloucestershire	3.718	45.45
Hertfordshire	7.752	48.56
Isle of Wight	0.853	47.90
Lincolnshire	4.412	44.95
Norfolk	4.856	44.78
Northamptonshire	4.458	44.97
Northumberland	1.987	44.86
Oxfordshire	3.818	47.58
Somerset	3.127	44.62
Suffolk	4.289	45.13
Surrey	6.925	49.59
Warwickshire	3.348	45.64
West Sussex	4.691	45.44

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 July 2008

SCOTLAND

Devolution

8. **Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament. [216431]

David Cairns: This Government remains totally committed to maintaining the United Kingdom and rejects the separatists' proposals to take Scotland out of the UK, which the clear majority of Scots do not want.

National Minimum Wage

9. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has made an assessment of the effect of the national minimum wage upon working people in Scotland. [216432]

David Cairns: The national minimum wage is a key component of the Government's strategy to make work pay and to help people into employment. 87,000 people in Scotland will benefit from the increase to national minimum wage that will come into force on 1 October 2008.

Travellers

12. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government is taking together with the Scottish Executive on cross-border issues in relation to Travellers. [216435]

David Cairns: Both the Scottish Executive and the Department for Communities and Local Government have programmes of work to address issues relating to Gypsy and Traveller communities, the majority of which, such as site provision, are devolved in Scotland

Broadcasting

13. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish broadcasters on the future of the industry in Scotland. [216436]

David Cairns: I have convened recent productive discussions with Scotland's broadcasters. I chaired an event in this House on 25 June, which was well attended by a number of cross-party politicians and key representatives of Scotland's broadcasting industry. I hosted a cross-party event on behalf of Ofcom (Scotland) on their Public Service Broadcasting review on 30 April.

I met with representatives from BBC Scotland, SMG, Channel 4 and a number of representatives from the independent sector during a series of meetings in Glasgow alongside my right hon. friend, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 12 June.

Barnett Formula

14. **Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on auditing the Barnett consequentials received by Scotland under the Barnett formula. [216438]

David Cairns: The Scottish Executive is provided with Barnett consequentials of comparable changes in provision of UK Government Departments calculated in the terms set out in the Statement of Funding Policy.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the Commission's policy is on what (*a*) documents, (*b*) information and (*c*) database access to provide online. [217448]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has adopted the policy of making the work of the House of Commons and information about that work widely accessible to the general public, including online. A project to update and modernise the parliamentary website is under way which seeks to provide the maximum level of online transparency and openness consistent with these objectives and the decisions of the House and the House of Commons Commission.

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what funding was allocated for development and maintenance of the parliament.uk website in each of the last five years. [217447]

Nick Harvey: The parliamentary website operates across both Houses of Parliament and is made up of contributions from a number of different individual sites. Not all costs are separately identifiable, as many staff contribute material to the site as part of their normal duties and these costs are not quantified. The figures that are available are as follows:

£000

Website	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Explore Parliament	105	45	82	40	41
Early Day Motions	14	14	61	61	[illegible]
Internet Redesign project	n/a	n/a	97	1,363	2,184
Other	96	84	69	138	126

Figures for the Internet Redesign project include staff costs for the Web Centre, the team responsible for managing the website and the parliamentary intranet.

The Internet Redesign Project was initiated in 2006 following a resolution of the House supporting the recommendation of the Modernisation Committee for a radical upgrade of the parliamentary website. In the last two years, it has implemented a series of enhancements.

including improved design and navigation, an online calendar of parliamentary business, a new section of the site explaining the role of Parliament and their procedures, a simpler presentation of information relating to Bills before Parliament, updated committee pages including the ability to conduct online consultations, the publication of deposited papers online and a greatly improved search facility.

WALES

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many (*a*) apprenticeships and (*b*) advanced apprenticeships there were in his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216606]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

TRANSPORT

East Coast Main Line

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will support the recent section 17 application to the Office of the Rail Regulator for enhanced route utilisation by National Express East Coast in respect of the East Coast Main Line; and if she will make a statement. [217144]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government welcome initiatives by train operating companies to explore opportunities to expand their services, and to provide even more benefits to their passengers than those to which they are committed by their franchise agreements.

The decision as to whether or not to grant this application lies with the independent Office of Rail Regulation. However, the Department has no plans to object to the application.

East Coast Railway Line

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to introduce a high speed rail network on the East Coast. [217184]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State invited Network Rail to begin work to develop longer-term options for the railway network. As part of this, on 23 June 2008 Network Rail announced a strategic review of the case for new rail lines. It will consider five of Network Rail's strategic routes, north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland Main Lines. It is too early to say what the results of this study will be or where any potential new lines might go. The study is expected to be complete in July 2009.

Electric Vehicles: Police

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals for a police trial of electric personal assistive mobility devices as part of the roadmap process to regulatory approval. [216921]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Opik) on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 921W.

Helicopters: Greater London

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any restrictions are in place on helicopter flights over Lambeth. [216618]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Rules of the Air Regulations and the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Specified Area) Regulations govern flight by helicopters over London. The former regulations specify the minimum height at which a helicopter may operate; the latter regulations prohibit single engine helicopters from the central area of London below such a height as would enable them to alight clear of that area in the event of an engine failure.

Helicopters are required to follow published routes over London subject to an air traffic control clearance. The routes, detailed in the UK Aeronautical Information Publication published by the CAA, are designed to provide maximum safety in respect of single-engine helicopter traffic by avoiding built-up areas as much as possible. Twin engine helicopters, such as those operated by the emergency services, may be cleared to fly outside those routes according to their specific requirements and the Rules of the Air.

In addition, an aircraft flying in accordance with the terms of a police air operator's certificate (PAOC) is exempt from certain parts of the Rules of the Air Regulations, including the low-flying rule, if the aircraft is flown in accordance with the Police Air Operations Manual (CAP 612), published by the Civil Aviation Authority (www.caa.co.uk). In London, the Metropolitan police and the Surrey police have been granted PAOCs and may be permitted to hover above particular locations depending on the operational requirement.

Landing Charges

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information she holds on the level of landing charges to UK flights arriving at (*a*) Heathrow, (*b*) Toronto, (*c*) Newark New Jersey, (*d*) Athens, (*e*) Vancouver, (*f*) New York JFK, (*g*) Osaka, (*h*) Mexico City, (*i*) Amsterdam, (*j*) Vienna, (*k*) Moscow, (*l*) Paris CDG, (*m*) Zurich, (*n*) Frankfurt, (*o*) Sydney, (*p*) Tokyo, (*q*) Brussels and (*r*) Dusseldorf airports. [216322]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does hold information about landing charges at Heathrow but does not generally hold information about landing charges at airports in other countries. Such information is available through commercial sources to which the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the independent airports regulator, has access, and which forms part of the evidence base for the CAA in carrying out its functions, such as the recent Heathrow and Gatwick price control reviews.

M60: Road Signs and Markings

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) with reference to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 727W, on M60: road signs and markings, whether a review of the use of scrolling arrows has been conducted since the consideration referred to in the answer; and if she will make a statement; [217267]

(2) with reference to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on M60: road signs and markings, what discussions her Department has had on legislative proposals aimed at permitting the use of scrolling arrows to direct traffic on the M60. [217270]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has been working closely with the Department for Transport to identify the circumstances in which scrolling arrows could be used safely and effectively. As a result, the displays have now been specially authorised for use by Highways Agency Traffic Officers on all-purpose and motorway trunk roads in England. The authorisation, under section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, was issued on 2 July 2008.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the online vehicle excise duty website was unavailable in each of the last 24 months. [216828]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been 482 outages of service during the last 24 months. Of these, 418 were for planned maintenance work, 32 were due to third party failure and a further 32 were unplanned outages.

Peterborough Railway Station

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with Network Rail on the redevelopment of Peterborough railway station in the near future; and if she will make a statement. [217143]

Mr. Tom Harris: While the Secretary of State has no specific plans to discuss the redevelopment of Peterborough station with Network Rail, Peterborough has been identified by the industry as a candidate station for funding from the National Stations Improvement Programme. The final selection of stations will be influenced by, among other things, the extent to which third party funding—from local authorities and the private sector—is secured to supplement the industry's own proposals.

Railways: Colchester

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the effects of the weekend works on the Colchester to Clacton-on-Sea and Colchester to Walton-on-the-Naze line on the number of weekend visitors to the area; and what assessment she has made of the effects of the works on the local economy. [216813]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. The timing of engineering works is an operational matter for Network Rail under the possessions regime overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation. Passengers are understandably frustrated by line closures, but there is no easy time to carry out major engineering works. Disruption is an unfortunate but sometimes unavoidable consequence of maintenance work essential for the continuing drive to deliver a safer and more reliable rail network.

Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the (*a*) front and (*b*) rear seat belt wearing rates are among (i) males and (ii) females, broken down by age group were in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [217905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Seat belt wearing surveys undertaken for the Department include information on seat belt usage rates by seating position, age and gender. The most recent publication, LF2102 (with results at October 2007) reported relevant wearing rates as follows:

Table 3: Wearing rates by sex and age, October 2007

			Percentage
	Male	*Female*	*Either*
Driver			
17-29	91	97	94
30-59	91	97	94
60+	95	97	96
Front seat passenger			
0-13	97	98	97
14-29	86	94	91
30-59	92	96	95
60+	96	98	97
Rear seat passenger			
0-13	96	95	96
14-29	64	71	68
30-59	58	71	66
60+	76	76	76

That publication is available on-line at

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211

and is free of charge. Earlier publications LF2099 and LF2096 contain survey results back to 2003. These are available from the same website address.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Publicity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evaluation of the Year of Food and Farming his Department plans to undertake. [216792]

Jonathan Shaw: As there are a wide range of stakeholders and investors contributing to the Year of Food and Farming, there is a great sense of accountability by the delivery group to partners. For this reason, a detailed final summary report will be produced later this year to outline the difference that the year will have made: where the money was spent and how it added value.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206802]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has expressed its interest to the Sector Skills Council for Central Government in taking part in the Pathfinder Apprenticeships Scheme. Following the evaluation of the pilot scheme, DEFRA will decide how best to incorporate apprenticeships into the corporate departmental skills strategy in 2009.

DEFRA recognises the importance of trying to increase the number of people in public sector with a NVQ at level 2 and 3. Core DEFRA and its agencies will be looking for ways to use the prospectus and work with the Learning Skills Council to increase the number of apprenticeships in the coming year.

The Animal Health Agency are keeping a watching brief on the Civil Service West Midlands programme to ascertain if and how it could be used in their organisation.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [216488]

Jonathan Shaw: For the 2006-07 financial year the gross expenditure on the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme amounted to £67.044 million. The provisional accounts for 2007-08 financial year show an expenditure of £52.469 million.

Cattle: Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 768W, on cattle: imports, if he will break down the number of cattle imported in each year by country of origin. [217[illegible]8]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table gives the number of live cattle recorded as imported into the UK in 2005, 2006 and 2007 by country of despatch.

Please note these figures are obtained using VAT records and will exclude some EU trade for businesses which are below the VAT threshold. As a result, actual trade levels may be higher than those given.

	Country of despatch	*Live cattle imports (Number of head)*
2005	Irish Republic	3,639
	Denmark	1,415
	Netherlands	222
	France	95
	Germany	84
2006	Irish Republic	5,171
	Netherlands	2,181
	Denmark	451
	France	980
	Germany	66
	Sweden	2
2007	Irish Republic	9,307
	France	410
	Netherlands	298
	Denmark	87
	Italy	1

Source:

H M Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis, DEFRA. 2007 data are subject to amendments.

Cetaceans

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many coastal cetacean strandings there have been in each *(a)* year since 2004 and *(b)* month in 2008; and how many of these are estimated to be the result of fishing activity in each such period. [217281]

Jonathan Shaw: All data on cetacean strandings across the UK, up to and including 2007 data, are publicly available on the DEFRA website in the form of UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) Annual report.

Figures for 2008 are currently being collated and will be available on the DEFRA website in 2009.

Climate Change: EU Action

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the UK will be participating in the conference to be held in Reunion from 7 to 11 July on the EU and its overseas entities strategies to counter climate change and biodiversity loss. [217249]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: We welcome the conference on the EU and its Overseas Entities Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss, which is being convened in Réunion as an official event under the French presidency of the European Union.

The United Kingdom is being represented at this important meeting by an official from the Department's international biodiversity team, accompanied by two colleagues from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international conservation.

Coastal Areas: Security

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to paragraph 3.22 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, which coastal areas of the UK he judges to be at the greatest risk; and what strategy he is pursuing to reduce the risk. [212401]

Mr. Woolas: Sea level rise and increasing storm activity are the key elements of coastal risk. The combined effect of these are generally greatest along the Anglian and south east coastlines, where there are extensive areas of low-lying land and where the impact of rising sea levels is exacerbated as the land is also sinking due to tectonic plate movement. The soft nature of the cliffs on the south and east coasts means that these areas are also at greatest risk of erosion.

The Environment Agency works with local authorities and others with an interest through coastal groups to prepare Shoreline Management Plans. These cover the entire coast of England and Wales and define the coastal management policies for each section of coast. They inform the Local Development Frameworks which direct development and regeneration of coastal communities. Detailed strategies and investment schemes enable these policies to be put into practice.

Departmental ICT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216368]

Jonathan Shaw: All public servants that access the DEFRA infrastructure in the office are able to register for remote access. The number that have used the facility within the last month is approximately 2,000.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214686]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA outsourced IT service provision to IBM in 2004. Under this contract the Department pay an annual fee for provision and maintenance of IT systems.

Apart from the IBM contract there are also IT assets owned by the Department. The value at time of purchase and current value of these is disclosed in the DEFRA published accounts which are available in the House Library.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209426]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no records of any vocational training resulting in national vocational qualifications being funded by the corporate centre in DEFRA in the past three years. This is a reflection of the current skills entry level for the core Department.

DEFRA recognises the importance of trying to increase the number of people in the private sector with NVQs and will be working with its agencies to consider ways to incorporate apprenticeships into the 2009-10 DEFRA departmental skills strategy.

Flood Control: Planning

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on flood control: planning, what his definition is of inappropriate development in flood risk areas; in what circumstances development in flood risk areas would be required; and where a development is to be constructed so it is resilient to flooding, which body determines the resilience of the structure and the products used. [216797]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)25, Development and Flood Risk, provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk to new development, guided by the advice of the Environment Agency, which must be consulted on all planning applications in these areas.

PPS25 sets out a sequential test to steer new development to areas at the lowest probability of flooding. Applying the PPS25 risk-based sequential approach, development would be inappropriate in flood risk areas where there are reasonably available sites in areas with a lower probability of flooding. Where the sequential test shows there are no lower risk alternatives, development vulnerable to flooding would only be appropriate if it passed the PPS25 exception test. The exception test is that the need for the development outweighs the flood risk, it is on previously developed land where this is available; it will be safe, and it will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

Local planning authorities determining planning applications should ensure that all new development in flood risk areas is appropriately flood resilient and resistant. Developers are responsible for ensuring the design and construction are carried out in a way which delivers appropriate flood resilience and satisfies the relevant planning authority. Government have produced a guide, "Improving the Flood Performance of New Buildings", which developers and planners can refer to for help in identifying appropriate solutions.

Grasslands: Nature Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential for re-creation of *(a)* lowland dry acid grassland, *(b)* lowland raised bog and *(c)* lowland heathland on land owned or managed by (i) the Forestry Commission for England and (ii) other departments or agencies. [216634]

Joan Ruddock: The potential for re-creation of these habitats on land owned or managed by Government Departments is being assessed as part of the Forestry Commission's process for developing Government policy on restoration of open habitats from woods and forests in England.

For the land managed by the Forestry Commission in England a comprehensive assessment of potential is being carried out using existing records and new information that is being added to their Geographic Information System. This will be completed by October 2008.

As regards the Ministry of Defence (MOD) no formal assessments have been undertaken on the re-creation of these habitats across the estate. The MOD requires the use of a matrix of varied habitats to provide realistic landscapes to support military training. The restoration of natural habitats is not always consistent with this requirement. Opportunities for habitat restoration, are considered within the Integrated Rural Management Plans which MOD has committed to write for all sites with significant biodiversity interest.

The land owned or directly managed by Natural England is in the National Nature Reserve estate. These are declared because the habitats they contain are already of high biodiversity value, so management aims to maintain and enhance the existing habitats rather than significantly alter them.

The area of potential habitat owned by other Government Departments or agencies is considered inconsequential on a national scale.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* pensioner and *(b)* other households received support from the Warm Front scheme in each parliamentary constituency in the last five years. [214425]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: Unfortunately it is not possible to provide the data my hon. Friend has requested in the exact form specified.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has allocated to rural housing enablers for 2009-10. [216568]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has allocated no funds to rural housing enablers (RHEs) for 2009-10.

DEFRA has never had a funding stream allocated specifically for RHEs. In April 2006 DEFRA launched the Rural Social and Community Programme (RSCP) which provided investment funding for locally-defined priorities set by partnerships of local organisations. Some of these partnerships developed time-limited projects involving RHEs.

The RSCP came to a long-anticipated conclusion in March 2008. It was always very explicit that there would be no commitment to fund any projects under the RSCP beyond the two-year programme. Indeed, the guidance for those seeking funding under the RSCP noted that all projects should draw up an 'exit strategy' to identify how they would develop beyond the time-limited period of that programme.

The work done by RHEs is now funded in a wide variety of ways across the country. The clear vision for the long-term funding of RHEs has always been that they should be supported at local level by the very local authorities and housing associations whose rural delivery they exist to support. I am pleased to note that in many areas across the country this is happening. Ultimately however, these are decisions for local delivery agents to take in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Primates

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals of each species of primate were imported to the UK to be sold as pets in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country of origin; and what steps are taken to monitor the whereabouts of such animals. [216727]

Jonathan Shaw: While we record the purpose for which primates are imported, imports for sale are simply recorded as imports for trade purposes, and there is no way to distinguish whether that sale will be for the animal to be kept as a pet, for research or for display in a zoo.

As primates are a rabies-susceptible mammal, primates imported to be sold as pets must undergo a period of six months quarantine. After this period, their locations are not tracked.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many primates were bred in the UK to be sold as pets in each of the last 10 years; [216728]

(2) how many primates are kept as pets in England. [216729]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not maintain records of primates kept as pets.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when codes for primate-keeping under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 will be published; and when they will be brought into force. [216730]

Jonathan Shaw: As a result of concerns raised during the passage of the Animal Welfare Act through Parliament, the Government intend to introduce a code of practice on the keeping of primates as pets. It is anticipated that this will restrict the keeping of primates by private keepers to specialists.

The code will be subject to public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. Preliminary work has been completed and DEFRA officials and Ministers will shortly consider how this work is to be progressed. Until this review has been completed it would not be appropriate to make any further commitments as to the date of its introduction.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what interim measures are being taken to safeguard the welfare of primate pets prior to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 codes coming into force. [216731]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides protection to animals that are in the control of man or animals that are commonly domesticated in the British isles. Typically, the Act protects pet animals, farmed animals, wild animals in captivity (e.g. wild animals in sanctuaries) and, in relation to cruelty offences, feral animals commonly domesticated in the British isles.

It therefore provides that primates are protected by the Act, which prevents unnecessary cruelty or suffering to any vertebrate animal. In addition, the Act introduced a new 'duty of care' for any animal under the control of man, which makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of their animals are met.

Red Squirrels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how often the size of the population of the red squirrel is estimated; and when it was last estimated; [216340]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to monitor and control the red squirrel population under the Bern convention. [216689]

Joan Ruddock: There is no reliable estimate of the red squirrel population because it is very difficult to carry out an accurate census. In the areas where red squirrel populations remain, the densities can vary between one and 0.1 squirrels per hectare. Numbers are subject to significant fluctuation depending on environmental factors and breeding success.

Red squirrels are not controlled under the Bern convention. They are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are the subject of a species action plan (SAP) as part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Squirrels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has made of the merits of extending the period in which warfarin may be used for the control of grey squirrels beyond autumn and winter. [216690]

Joan Ruddock: No consideration has been given to extending the period in which Warfarin can be used. The increased use of Warfarin would go against the stringent requirement in the UK Woodland Assurance Standard for pesticides reduction.

Summertime: Energy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the effects on UK energy consumption of a change to British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [214786]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to change the current summer time arrangements or to undertake additional research as the Government are not convinced that a change would be in the best interests of the UK.

Water Supply

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the volume of average water leakages per megalitre per day was in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* distribution and *(b)* supply infrastructure. [217283]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* The table shows total industry leakage broken down into distribution losses (leakage from company-side pipes) and underground supply pipe leakage (losses from customer supply pipes) for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07. Ofwat is currently collecting the figures for 2007-08.

Total industry leakage 2002-03 to 2006-07 (megalitres per day)

	Distribution losses (mega litres per day)	*Underground supply pipe leakage (mega litres per day)*	*Total Leakage (mega litres per day)*
2002-03	2,606	1,000	3,605
2003-04	2,625	1,024	3,649
2004-05	2,584	1,024	3,608
2005-06	2,610	966	3,576
2006-07	2,545	873	3,418

These figures are published in Ofwat's 'Security of supply 2006-07 report' available on Ofwat's website.

Water Supply: Compensation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the levels of compensation paid by water companies to their customers were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [217284]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 July 2008]:* Ofwat last reviewed the Guaranteed Standards Scheme Regulations in November 2005 in the consultation document 'Dealing with customers affected by sewer flooding and the guaranteed standards scheme—a review'.

Water: Meter

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to discuss water metering arrangements with water companies; [216784]

(2) if he will hold discussions with water companies to encourage them to introduce a regime of lower charges for occupants of small flats who are unable to install water meters. [216793]

Mr. Woolas: Discussions have been held with the water industry on accelerating metering through the Water Resources Management Plans process. Those companies operating in 'areas of serious water stress', as designated by the Secretary of State for this purpose, can make proposals to accelerate metering where there is a water resources case to do so. Where the case is sufficiently robust company proposals will be allowed to proceed.

As we announced in our water strategy "Future Water", the Government have commissioned an independent review to advise on metering and charging, looking in particular at social, economic and environmental concerns. The review is due to start shortly.

Where a customer requests to have a water meter installed, water companies can refuse to do so where it is impracticable or unreasonably expensive to install. Where a company is unable to install a meter (and a single shared meter is not feasible, for example for a block of flats), companies must offer an 'assessed charge'. Assessed charges should be a better reflection of customers' consumption than their unmeasured charges. Companies use a number of different methods for determining assessed charges; for example:

charges based on the type of property;

a fixed charge based on a reasonable assumption of the amount of water customers typically use;

occupancy based charges; and

charges based on an assessment of the customer's usage.

Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales, checks and approves each company's charges every year. It also determines any reported disputes from customers regarding a company's decision to refuse their request to have a meter installed.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of violent offences in England and Wales were related to *(a)* alcohol abuse and *(b)* use of illegal drugs in each of the last five years. [212692]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the percentage of violent offences in England and Wales estimated by the British Crime Survey, in each of the last five years, where the victims believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Percentage of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 2002-03 to 2006-07 BCS, England and Wales

Percentage and number / Thousand Interviews

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Under influence of alcohol	45	51	49	45	46
Under influence of drugs	20	20	18	23	17
Unweighted base	1,397	1,398	1,455	1,512	1,658

Alcoholic Drinks: Domestic Violence

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of domestic violence offences were related to *(a)* alcohol abuse and *(b)* use of illegal drugs in each of the last five years. [212693]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the percentage of domestic violent offences in England and Wales estimated by the British Crime Survey, in each of the last five years, where the victims believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

It should be noted that these estimates are obtained from face-to-face interviews with victims of domestic violence and thus some caution is required as victims may not wish to disclose such sensitive information. In addition, the percentage estimates are based on small numbers of victims sampled and will fluctuate from year to year due to random variation.

Percentage of domestic violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 2002-03 to 2006-07 BCS, England and Wales

Percentage and number / Thousand Interviews

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Under influence of alcohol	42	47	53	46	39
Under influence of drugs	11	10	11	12	15
Unweighted base	259	258	256	251	266

Deportation: Grants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what average amount was paid to people leaving the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each month since its inception, broken down by country of destination; [208834]

(2) how many people have left the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each month since its inception, broken down by country of destination. [208835]

Jacqui Smith: Most recent figures show that between 1 November 2006 and 31 October 2007 around £350,000 has been spent on FRS, which includes administrative costs. For the same period 880 foreign national prisoners left the UK under the scheme. This represents considerable savings for the taxpayer in detention costs alone.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 18 February and advised them that, as of 28 January 2008, there were around 1,200 foreign national prisoners removed under the scheme. She will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners as requested.

Detection Rates

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for *(a)* reported crimes, *(b)* violent crimes, *(c)* burglaries and *(d)* acts of theft in (i) each police force area and (ii) England and Wales was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [212631]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2008]:* The available information is given in the following tables. A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 1: Overall detection rates for all recorded offences by police force area 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	15	15	17	23	24
Bedfordshire	26	23	28	25	22
British Transport Police	15	16	17	20	24
Cambridgeshire	22	23	23	27	25
Cheshire	26	27	26	27	27
Cleveland	23	21	24	30	31
Cumbria	31	32	30	35	36

Table 1: Overall detection rates for all recorded offences by police force area 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Derbyshire	26	25	28	27	26
Devon and Cornwall	29	29	30	28	27
Dorset	25	26	28	30	30
Durham	34	29	29	27	30
Dyfed-Powys	68	47	43	45	45
Essex	27	28	27	31	33
Gloucestershire	29	28	27	32	33
Greater Manchester	22	22	23	25	25
Gwent	48	45	42	36	33
Hampshire	30	27	28	24	23
Hertfordshire	23	25	29	26	29
Humberside	20	19	20	23	25
Kent	28	25	23	26	26
Lancashire	27	27	30	32	35
Leicestershire	27	22	25	30	28
Lincolnshire	23	22	25	26	28
London, City of	36	33	36	43	39
Merseyside	25	27	30	28	29
Metropolitan Police	14	15	21	24	21
Norfolk	24	26	28	31	30
Northamptonshire	28	28	29	25	26
Northumbria	31	30	29	35	40
North Wales	29	33	42	43	48
North Yorkshire	26	28	35	35	33
Nottinghamshire	16	18	20	22	23
South Wales	29	29	29	26	25
South Yorkshire	21	24	26	27	26
Staffordshire	31	33	35	35	35
Suffolk	34	33	32	30	31
Surrey	22	22	26	25	30
Sussex	24	24	25	30	31
Thames Valley	25	23	26	28	25
Warwickshire	26	25	27	25	27
West Mercia	33	31	34	34	34
West Midlands	26	25	23	26	27
West Yorkshire	20	20	25	28	29
Wiltshire	28	28	29	32	26
England and Wales	23	23	26	27	27

Note:

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 2: Overall detection rates for violence against the person offences by police force area 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	28	26	27	38	42
Bedfordshire	58	52	58	55	51
British Transport Police	35	35	37	43	50
Cambridgeshire	58	52	51	58	55
Cheshire	69	66	59	52	52
Cleveland	55	46	50	59	63
Cumbria	73	66	55	62	64
Derbyshire	61	57	57	52	49
Devon and Cornwall	55	54	57	50	48
Dorset	64	52	49	54	57
Durham	80	73	65	54	64
Dyfed-Powys	95	68	66	68	66
Essex	71	69	63	69	69
Gloucestershire	58	55	52	55	56
Greater Manchester	64	58	54	58	55
Gwent	78	81	74	70	63
Hampshire	70	51	51	46	44
Hertfordshire	66	64	68	60	57
Humberside	52	38	38	47	49
Kent	61	54	46	49	49
Lancashire	61	50	56	60	61
Leicestershire	54	38	40	51	47
Lincolnshire	48	46	52	55	57
London, City of	58	55	64	72	66
Merseyside	60	64	68	54	55
Metropolitan Police	24	26	43	45	31
Norfolk	56	56	56	60	56
Northamptonshire	70	64	69	60	60
Northumbria	64	61	57	65	70
North Wales	61	71	81	77	82
North Yorkshire	67	67	77	75	70
Nottinghamshire	46	50	53	53	54
South Wales	69	69	68	56	54
South Yorkshire	63	64	59	57	54
Staffordshire	69	70	67	67	65
Suffolk	78	68	66	59	65
Surrey	58	61	59	56	59
Sussex	63	60	52	55	57
Thames Valley	61	51	52	59	49
Warwickshire	70	60	63	59	58
West Mercia	70	66	71	67	65
West Midlands	57	51	46	50	47
West Yorkshire	65	47	51	49	54
Wiltshire	60	62	67	69	55
England and Wales	54	50	53	54	51

Note:

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 3. Overall detection rates for all burglary offences by police force area 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	12	13	10	14	12
Bedfordshire	15	11	15	14	9
British Transport Police	9	9	8	11	11
Cambridgeshire	13	16	15	15	12
Cheshire	14	15	16	17	15
Cleveland	11	11	13	13	13
Cumbria	13	16	13	17	14
Derbyshire	13	11	12	15	15
Devon and Cornwall	14	14	13	13	14
Dorset	12	14	18	16	13
Durham	16	13	14	13	14
Dyfed-Powys	39	26	21	22	26
Essex	13	12	12	14	14
Gloucestershire	20	17	12	16	17
Greater Manchester	7	8	9	10	11
Gwent	35	33	29	22	18
Hampshire	15	15	17	12	12
Hertfordshire	15	17	21	12	17
Humberside	9	10	10	10	12
Kent	14	12	10	11	13
Lancashire	16	17	17	20	24
Leicestershire	16	12	13	15	17
Lincolnshire	13	11	9	9	11
London, City of	38	17	25	52	43
Merseyside	12	14	16	10	11
Metropolitan Police	13	12	13	15	16
Norfolk	11	13	13	16	14
Northamptonshire	13	16	12	11	11
Northumbria	14	15	12	17	20
North Wales	13	17	21	19	21
North Yorkshire	11	13	13	14	11
Nottinghamshire	8	9	8	10	9
South Wales	15	14	14	14	11
South Yorkshire	8	13	16	16	14
Staffordshire	14	16	16	16	16
Suffolk	15	13	14	10	13
Surrey	9	10	11	10	12
Sussex	10	13	11	13	14
Thames Valley	15	13	14	14	13
Warwickshire	14	12	18	11	12
West Mercia	13	12	15	17	15
West Midlands	15	15	9	9	10
West Yorkshire	11	10	15	17	17
Wiltshire	16	13	15	16	13
England and Wales	12	13	13	14	14

Note
It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 4. Overall detection rates for all thefts by police force area 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	11	10	12	16	17
Bedfordshire	18	18	19	17	15
British Transport Police	7	6	6	8	9
Cambridgeshire	14	15	16	19	17
Cheshire	18	18	18	20	21
Cleveland	21	18	19	22	25
Cumbria	22	24	24	28	28
Derbyshire	17	16	18	18	18
Devon and Cornwall	19	19	19	20	20
Dorset	16	17	19	21	19
Durham	24	20	22	19	21
Dyfed-Powys	46	30	27	29	29
Essex	17	17	17	20	24
Gloucestershire	20	22	20	23	31
Greater Manchester	14	15	15	16	16
Gwent	35	33	33	27	24
Hampshire	20	19	19	17	15
Hertfordshire	18	17	19	17	20
Humberside	15	15	15	16	18
Kent	20	18	17	20	20
Lancashire	20	20	23	25	29
Leicestershire	20	17	20	21	21
Lincolnshire	17	16	18	18	21
London, City of	21	19	17	19	20
Merseyside	18	18	19	17	21
Metropolitan Police	8	8	10	11	10
Norfolk	16	18	20	22	23
Northamptonshire	22	23	21	19	20
Northumbria	24	23	23	27	35
North Wales	20	22	29	32	36
North Yorkshire	17	19	21	22	21
Nottinghamshire	12	13	13	14	14
South Wales	17	18	17	17	16
South Yorkshire	16	19	20	21	21
Staffordshire	22	22	23	22	24
Suffolk	22	20	20	20	19
Surrey	13	13	14	14	17
Sussex	14	14	15	18	19
Thames Valley	18	16	18	17	15
Warwickshire	17	17	19	16	18
West Mercia	23	22	24	27	26
West Midlands	19	18	15	17	19
West Yorkshire	15	14	19	22	22
Wiltshire	18	19	20	20	18
England and Wales	16	15	16	18	18

Note
It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Driving: Disqualification

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to prevent disqualified drivers from driving. [216840]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: Driving while disqualified is a criminal offence carrying a penalty of a maximum fine of £5,000 or six months imprisonment or both. How the offence is enforced is an operational matter for the police. We have supported the growing use by the police of automatic number plate recognition technology. These enable the rapid identification of vehicles of potential interest, including those linked with a disqualified driver. We have given police the power to seize immediately vehicles that are being driven by someone otherwise than in accordance with a licence or who does not have insurance and to return them only on production of licence and insurance.

Hunting: Foxes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with offences relating to fox hunting in each police force area in each of the last two years. [215822]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under the Hunting Act 2004 in 2005 and 2006, broken down by police force area, is provided in the following table. Statistics for court proceedings in 2007 will be published in the autumn.

The figures provided relate to the principal offence for which persons were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales 2005 and 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*
Cheshire		2
Durham		1
Essex		4
Humberside		4
Merseyside	1	
Thames Valley	2	
England and Wales	3	11

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Where a police force area is not listed in the table then no prosecutions have been reported to the Ministry of Justice

Source:

Court proceedings database—Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who left the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme were arrested *(a)* trying to re-enter the UK and *(b)* while in the UK in each month since its inception. [208833]

Jacqui Smith: Obtaining the information requested would require the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. All individuals who leave the United Kingdom under the Facilitated Returns scheme are fingerprinted and excluded from the country and placed on watch lists in order to prevent them from returning to the United Kingdom after they are removed.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 18 February and advised them that, as of 28 January 2008, there were around 1,200 foreign national prisoners removed under the scheme. She will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners as requested.

Sexual Offences: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders are known to have travelled abroad without informing the police. [213823]

Mr. Coaker: The number of registered sex offenders travelling without first notifying their intention to do so is not currently collated.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of meeting urgent operational requirements in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan was in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08; what provision he has made for meeting such requirements in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11, (iv) 2011-12 and (v) 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [216903]

Des Browne: For the cost of urgent operational requirements (UORs) approved from 2001-02 to 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox). These costs are for UORs in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have agreed with HM Treasury an estimate for Reserve expenditure on UORs in 2008-09 of £900 million. We have not made any estimates for potential UOR costs beyond this. UORs are designed to fulfil unforeseeable urgent capability gaps identified by commanders in the field driven by the situation on the ground, and as such can only be forecast with limited accuracy.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much service personnel in *(a)* the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital and *(b)* Headley Court rehabilitation centre are charged for use of (i) television, (ii) internet and (iii) telephone services per (A) minute, (B) 20 minutes, (C) 30 minutes, (D) 45 minutes and (E) hour. [206914]

Derek Twigg: Telephone, television and internet services are not charged at Selly Oak on the basis requested. However, military patients benefit from casualty welfare package including a daily payment towards meeting these costs.

At Headley Court, which is a military establishment, television and internet are provided in communal areas without charge. There is also a payphone provided for their use.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the latest Defence Medical Services Continuous Attitude Survey. [216179]

Derek Twigg: I have placed in the Library of the House the result reports of the latest Defence Medical Services Regular and Reservists Continuous Attitude Surveys, conducted during May and June 2007.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision the Government has made for the healthcare of service personnel serving overseas. [216538]

Derek Twigg: The MOD aims to ensure that members of the armed forces serving overseas (other than those on operational deployments) have access to a range of medical and dental services that are wherever practicable broadly equivalent to those available in the UK through the NHS.

Primary care services (including dental treatment) will normally be provided by medical centres located in the major base areas, or through arrangements with local providers. Secondary care will normally be provided through arrangements with local medical services, or (for personnel based in Gibraltar and Cyprus) through military hospital facilities run by the Defence Medical Services (DMS).

The DMS also have two regional rehabilitation units in Germany, at Gutersloh and Hohne, which provide specialist treatment for musculoskeletal and similar injuries. Finally, there are DMS Community Mental Health Teams in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

For members of the armed forces on operational deployment, the DMS provides basic primary care. Depending on the scale and type of operation, other provision will include appropriate emergency treatment for those who become ill or injured, including the initial management of combat casualties and emergency surgery in field hospital facilities. Again depending on the scale and type of operation, further in-theatre care may be available, for example from deployed rehabilitation and mental health teams. Personnel who are unable for any medical reason to carry out their designated operational role (either through wounding, other injury or illness) will be returned to the UK for any necessary treatment and longer-term care.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation in (i) Germany, (ii) Cyprus, (iii) Gibraltar and (iv) the Falkland Islands there are in each grade for charge classification; and what percentage of the total each represents. [216240]

Derek Twigg: Service family accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falkland/Ascension Islands (SAI) are currently at the following grades:

	Germany	*Percentage*	*Cyprus*	*Percentage*	*Gibraltar*	*Percentage*	*SAI*	*Percentage*
SFA								
Grade 1	2,212	17	0	0	82	17	0	0
Grade 2	6,010	47	504	28	66	14	0	0
Grade 3	3,481	27	140	8	90	19	0	0
Grade 4	1,149	9	1,187	64	239	50	80	100
SLA								
Grade 1	2,540	17	60	4	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	1,530	10	0	0	230	74	0	0
Grade 3	4,380	28	370	26	80	26	0	0
Grade 4	6,940	45	1,000	70	0	0	2,510	100

Grade for Charge is an assessment of the accommodation's chargeable condition, which does not only take into account its physical condition but other factors such as its size and closeness to amenities.

The low grade given to accommodation in the South Atlantic islands for example reflects the remote location and environmental factors rather than the actual condition of the accommodation which is considered reasonable. It should be noted that a large proportion of overseas SLA is only used during operational deployments. Although much of this accommodation is G4fC, residents are not charged for it.

In Cyprus, some 650 bed-spaces will be upgraded by 2012 for use on a permanent basis. In addition, there are ongoing programmes of improvement work in all the above locations including the Hired Accommodation Revitalisation Programme project, which aims to replace or upgrade the entire hired estate in Germany over the next five years.

Over the next decade the MOD will spend over £8.4 billion on accommodation, including some £3 billion on bringing accommodation up to the top condition. This will include the delivery of some further 30,000 new or improved SLA bed-spaces by 2013.

Armed Forces: Water

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government has taken to guarantee access to clean water for personnel serving overseas. [216539]

Des Browne: The Department takes the health of its soldiers very seriously and guaranteeing access to clean drinking water is particularly important to the well being of the armed forces, especially in the very hot climates of Iraq and Afghanistan.

For service personnel and their families posted to Germany or Permanent Joint Operating Bases such as Cyprus, Gibraltar or the Falkland Islands, this is provided to homes and workplaces via normal infrastructure, and to troops on exercise via tankers or jerrycans.

For troops serving on operations, water is provided through a number of means and distributed by the most expedient fashion. The majority of water is sourced from boreholes, purified by reverse osmosis, checked for purity and then distributed. In Afghanistan the UK also has its own water bottling plant at Camp Bastion. Where sufficient water cannot be sourced locally, we import significant quantities of bottled water. This is distributed by a variety of means depending on the destination but can be by truck, helicopter or even air dispatch for the more austere locations. Finally, soldiers are provided with water purification tablets for use in extremis, but these are not viewed as a long term method of providing access to a safe water supply.

Chinook Helicopters: Greater London

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what *(a)* routes and *(b)* altitudes Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters regularly fly over the London area; and what mechanism exists for concerns about altitude and noise levels resulting from such flights to be expressed by members of the public. [217131]

Derek Twigg: Military helicopters (including RAF Chinook) operating in the London area use the same fixed helicopter routes as civilian helicopters, and operate at such height as they are instructed to by air traffic control. Members of the public wishing to express concern may contact the Directorate of Air Staff Complaints and Enquiries Unit on 0207 218 6020, or by e-mail at: lowflying@mod.uk.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change has been in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies since July 2006. [217073]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the change in the number of personnel in the MOD between July 2006 and April 2008.

Total Department Strength[1]

	Full-time equivalent
July 2006	102,970
April 2008	90,600
Change	-12,370

[1] Total strength includes personnel in core top level budgets, trading funds, royal fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20.
2. Totals and subtotals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Data provided are based on DASA's quarterly product, 'CPS01—Civilian Personnel Statistics Quarterly Return', the most recent version of which was issued for April 2008 and can be found at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/cps1/pdfs/cps01apr08.pdf

Departmental Nurseries

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual running cost of a crèche run by his Department is. [216244]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214722]

Derek Twigg: The principle that appointments to the civil service must be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition has been the basis of civil service recruitment policy for over a century. It underpins the maintenance of a civil service which is highly competent, politically impartial, has high standards of integrity and which avoids unfair discrimination.

The Ministry of Defence can however waiver this policy if the secondment is part of an interchange programme or other exchange arrangement, is intended to foster contact with a particular body with which the Department has, or is developing, links, or the source of supply is very restricted. These secondments are intended to be temporary (normally up to three years, but not exceeding five years), and must not affect the employment status of the secondee.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214655]

Derek Twigg: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid in compensation to wounded servicemen and women and the families of those killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. [203677]

Derek Twigg: Information on the total amount paid out to wounded servicemen and women and the families of those killed since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan under the Armed Forces Reserves and Compensation Scheme could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A total of £8.1 million in common law compensation claims has been paid out to wounded service personnel or the families of those killed while serving in Operations Telic and Herrick since 2001. Common law compensation claims are for people injured or having suffered loss allegedly due to the MOD's negligent actions. This is a separate claims system to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. The figure quoted includes related payments such as legal fees and medical expenses.

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any changes will be made to the financial arrangements regarding the sale of redundant military sites following recent talks between the Government, Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party. [213117]

Derek Twigg: No changes are planned. All receipts from the disposal of military sites in Northern Ireland are expected to be retained by the Ministry of Defence and re-invested by the Department in our key priorities.

Shipping: Fuels

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was to the Royal Navy of marine diesel per tonne plus lighterage on 30th May *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2006. [216990]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: As the Defence Fuels Group buys the majority of the Royal Navy's requirement for marine diesel in bulk for onward issue as required, it is not possible to provide a price for a specific date; however, the average costs of marine diesel for the last three years are as follows:

Financial year	*£ per metric tonne*
2006-07	316
2007-08[1]	380
2008-09 to date	570

The cost of lighterage is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Planning

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make it his policy to restrict the use of houses previously used as privately occupied residences as bail hostels in residential areas; [216617]

(2) what the process is for establishing a bail hostel in a house previously used as a private residence; and whether conditions may be applied to such an establishment. [216632]

Mr. Hanson: The process for establishing properties for the Bail Accommodation and Support Scheme (to which I understand this question refers) is as follows.

The Regional Offender Managers, and the Directors of Offender Management for Wales and London, identify in which towns accommodation is needed and in what numbers, based on the distribution of origins of prisoners. It is for ClearSprings to seek properties in those locations. There are currently around 160 properties in the service providing about 550 beds. ClearSprings are required to consult the local authority, police and the probation in selecting properties, in order to avoid inappropriate locations. The accommodation used must meet standards set by the local authority in relation to the accreditation of private rented housing.

Prisoners released on Home Detention Curfew are subject to electronically monitored curfew. For defendants on bail the courts may impose such other conditions as are considered necessary to mitigate any risks of abscond, offending or interference with witnesses. These conditions may include a curfew which may be electronically monitored.

Cannabis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been sentenced for *(a)* trafficking and *(b)* selling skunk cannabis in each of the last 10 years. [217026]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of persons sentenced for offences involving the trafficking of class B and class C drugs.

It is not possible to identify separately on the Courts Proceedings Database trafficking of cannabis from other class B and class C drugs. Courts proceedings data for 2007 will be published in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons sentenced for offences involving trafficking of class B and class C drugs, all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Offences in relation to the unlawful importation of a drug controlled under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Class B drugs		437	421	335	401	463	269	120	49	29
Offences in relation to the unlawful importation of a drug controlled under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Class C drugs		12	5	19	26	23	11	100	151	159

Number of persons sentenced(1) for offences involving trafficking of class B and class C drugs, all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Offences in relation to the unlawful exportation of a drug controlled under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Class B drugs		14	6	3	2	3	1	3		
Offences in relation to the unlawful exportation of a drug controlled under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Class C drugs		1			1				4	6
Supplying or offering to supply (or being concerned in supplying or offering to supply) a controlled drug—Cannabis and cannabis resin(2)	1,400	1,458	1,209	870	623	598	514	444	367	352
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply Cannabis or cannabis resin	2,475	2,713	2,316	1,872	1,401	1,383	1,462	1,210	950	884

(1) The data are on the principal offence basis.

(2) On 29 January 2004 Cannabis was reclassified from a class B to a class C drug.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS—Analytical Services

Coroners

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions a coroner acting under Rule 17 of the Coroners Rules (1984) has exercised his power to exclude the public from an inquest in each of the last five years. [216583]

Bridget Prentice: Rule 17 of the Coroners Rules 1984 allows coroners to exclude the public from an inquest or part of an inquest if they consider it would be in the national interest to do so. There is no requirement on coroners to record data about their use of Rule 17 and this information is not therefore held centrally. I would, however, expect these powers to be used infrequently.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public interest immunity certificates have been served upon coroners in England and Wales seeking non-disclosure of evidence on grounds of national security in each of the last five years. [216584]

Bridget Prentice: A public body may issue a public interest immunity (PII) certificate to a court when it is considered that disclosure of material would cause real damage to the public interest. This would include coroner's courts but information about PII certificates issued to coroners is not held centrally. I would, however, expect the use of PII certificates in coroner's courts to be limited.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received from bereaved families on the coroner's court procedures. [216842]

Bridget Prentice: The main aim of coroner reform is to deliver a better service for bereaved people. Since the draft Coroners Bill was published in 2006, extensive public consultation on our plans for reform has taken place and feedback from bereaved people and voluntary groups representing their interests has helped to improve several areas of policy.

As well as receiving over 150 responses to the public consultation exercise, a panel of people with recent experience of the coroners' system debated the draft Bill in the Palace of Westminster in November 2006. The event highlighted broad support for the proposals—for example, the introduction of an accessible appeals system for those who are unhappy with coroners' decisions. Panel members also made suggestions for improving the draft Charter for Bereaved People, which will be published alongside the Bill to show Members of Parliament how the reform proposals are intended to benefit bereaved families. I published a further version of the draft Charter for consultation on 18 June.

I also meet regularly with groups from the voluntary sector which have an interest in the coroners' system from the perspective of bereaved families, and I have welcomed the insights and positive suggestions they have offered.

Coroners: Northern Ireland

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public interest immunity certificates have been served on coroners in Northern Ireland seeking non-disclosure of evidence on grounds of national security in each of the last five years. [216586]

Mr. Hanson: No Public Interest Immunity Certificates have been served on coroners since April 2006, when the new coroners service for Northern Ireland was established. Information on previous years is not available.

Criminal Cases Review Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to announce the name of the new head of the Criminal Cases Review Commission; [216740]

(2) by what process the new head of the Criminal Cases Review Commission was chosen. [216741]

Maria Eagle: An announcement about the new chair of the Criminal Cases Review Commission is expected to be made later in the summer when the recruitment process has been completed. The recruitment of the new chair followed the guidance laid down by The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments and an independent assessor was provided by OCPA to ensure that the proper procedures are followed.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214716]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value of his Department's computer systems (*a*) was at the time of purchase and (*b*) is now. [214718]

Mr. Wills: The main IT systems for the Ministry of Justice's Headquarters and Her Majesty's Courts Service are provided under contracts with Atos Origin and Logica. The estimated total value of these contracts at time of signature in October 2006 was £500 million over seven years. Under these contracts, the Ministry procures services and does not own the assets.

EDS provide the majority of ICT services for the National Offender Management Service, which includes Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), under the Quantum agreement, which is a private finance initiative contract. The value of this contract at the time of signature in 2000 was £200 million, and it runs until mid 2012. HMPS procures services under this contract, and does not take title to the assets.

The majority of National Probation Service ICT services are provided under a separate contract with Steria. The value of this contract at the time of signature in 2006 was £120 million. The contract runs until mid-2012.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997; [216698]

(2) how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department and its predecessor were responsible for each year since 1997. [218032]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and National Offender Management Service, including the Prison and Probation services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The Department for Constitutional Affairs was created on 12 June 2003, and included the previous Lord Chancellor's Department, which was in operation during the period from 1997 until 2003. Figures for the National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service were the responsibility of the Home Office until the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

Prior to the creation of the Department for Constitutional Affairs different recording systems were employed for the collection of sick leave statistics. The cost of providing these figures would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

The following table shows the recorded sickness absence:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs HQ	16,227	17,188	14,973	16,838	17,918
HM Prison Service					941,019
National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform					12,365

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215889]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is currently implementing its waste management strategy, which works towards a standard of best waste management practice according to the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle and disposal.

The waste management strategy clearly sets out information and policy of all aspects of waste activity including, Government policy requirements, legislation, commercial waste management practice, recycling and internal waste management procedures.

The strategy fully demonstrates how recycling and waste minimisation should be performed across the estate. In addition the strategy enables data on waste produced and recycled, so the Department can monitor and report on progress to the Sustainable Development Commission.

Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS)

In addition to the implementation of the waste management strategy, HMCS will develop individual regional sustainable development action plans throughout the estate, which will incorporate Waste Action.

Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)

HM Prison Service is delivering a programme of implementing a waste management capability at public sector managed prisons. To-date, 87 prisons (68 per cent. of the public sector prison estate) have an operational waste management unit (WMU), separating out materials for re-use, recycling, composting and, for the residue, responsible disposal. Progress on this initiative over the past two years is set out in the following table:

	Total prison population April	Number of waste units	Coverage of prisons estate percentage	Total waste arisings tonnes	Total waste diverted from disposal tonnes	Recovery Recycling Rate percentage	Comment
2006-07	76,946	80	62	13,732	6,000	43.7	Totals reported from 49 prisons
2007-08	80,126	87	68	21,265.3	8,786.6	41.3	Totals reported from 73 prisons

Land Registry Act 2002

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the office of the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry has examined under section 73(7) of the Land Registry Act 2002 in each year since entry into force of the Act. [216629]

Bridget Prentice: In the period from 2003 to 2008, the following number of cases have been examined by the office of the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry

	Number of cases examined
2003-04	146
2004-05	1,564
2005-06	1,331
2006-07	1,684
2007-08	1,679
2008-09 (figures to date)	456

Legal Profession: Fees and Charges

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's policy is on the practice of no-win no-fee offers made by law firms. [216843]

Bridget Prentice: Conditional fee or 'no win no fee' arrangements provide a mechanism for securing access to justice for individuals seeking legal redress. The Government believe that they play an important role in giving people wider access to justice and should continue to remain a funding option.

The Solicitors' Regulatory Authority has a comprehensive regulatory framework for solicitors' conduct including charging arrangements and costs agreements.

We are keen to ensure that no win no fee arrangements are giving people effective access to justice, and I informed the House on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, in a written statement, that we have commissioned an independent feasibility and scoping study into the operation of 'no win no fee'. The study will report in the autumn and will inform the feasibility of an evidence-based review.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 891W, on the *Morning Star*, which divisions of his Department receive the copies of the *Morning Star*. [217436]

Mr. Wills: The only directorate of the Ministry of Justice which receives the *Morning Star* is Private Office.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the most effective interventions with regard to *(a)* reducing reoffending and *(b)* increasing offenders' capacities to manage their lifestyles and associations with others in a law-abiding manner. [216578]

Mr. Hanson: There are a range of issues that are known to affect the likelihood of reoffending. These fall into seven areas, or pathways: accommodation, education, training and employment; health; drugs and alcohol; finance, benefit and debt; children and families; attitudes, thinking and behaviour. The evidence suggests that as there are multiple influences on offending, the most effective response is with a package of interventions.

Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice are currently carrying out a programme of cohort studies, which follow offenders on custodial and community sentences through the course of their sentence and beyond. These will add to our knowledge about what works in reducing reoffending but also more broadly about how interventions might work in combination to address the range of offenders' needs.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each of the last 30 years. [217119]

Mr. Straw: The Prevention of Crime Act 1953 has been amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and the figures given here represent individuals sentenced under the amended provisions and section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Data are not stored electronically for the last 30 years and cannot be extracted in a timely manner so the data supplied cover the period for which they are available, 1996 to 2006.

Number of persons sentenced and percentage given fines and immediate custody for carrying offensive weapons, 1996 to 2006

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number sentenced	3,458	4,149	4,395	4,155	4,126	4,892	5,462	5,415	5,791	5,719	5,670
Number given fines	1,096	1,206	1,224	1,073	964	1,148	1,129	1,168	1,038	743	578

Number of persons sentenced and percentage given fines and immediate custody for carrying offensive weapons, 1996 to 2006

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Percentage given fines	31	29	28	26	23	23	21	22	18	13	10
Number given immediate custody	402	517	590	557	601	637	792	764	821	832	791
Percentage given immediate custody	11	12	13	13	15	15	15	14	14	15	14

Number given custodial sentences

Sentence length	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0-6 months	361	447	540	500	545	582	701	666	739	717	654
6-12 months	30	39	34	39	38	36	60	65	60	85	88
12-18 months	9	15	5	6	10	14	19	18	13	15	27
18-24 months	1	8	4	8	4	4	6	7	6	11	13
2-3 years	1	2	2	1	4	1	5	7	3	2	6
3-4 years		2		3			1	1		1	1
4+ years										1	2

Percentage given custodial sentences

Sentence length	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0-6 months	10.4	10.8	12.3	12.0	13.2	11.9	12.8	12.3	12.8	12.5	11.5
6-12 months	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.6
12-18 months	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
18-24 months	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
2-3 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
3-4 years		0.0		0.1			0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
4+ years										0.0	0.0

0.0 = Less than 0.1 per cent

Indeterminate sentence for public protection

Notes:

1. These data are based on offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 of possession of an offensive weapon on school premises and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 received (*a*) a fine and (*b*) a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months and (iv) 18 to 24 months in each year since the Act was introduced. [217120]

Mr. Straw: The following tables show the number of people sentenced under the Knives Act 1997 for encouraging or promoting the use of knives in combat or for violence and the numbers and percentage that received (*a*) a fine and (*b*) a custodial sentence and the length of that custodial sentence in the last five years.

Number of persons sentenced and percentage given fines and immediate custody for encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife, 1996 - 2006

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number sentenced	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	3
Number given fines	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Percentage given fines		100	50		100		50			100	
Number given immediate custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Percentage given immediate custody											66.6

Lengths of custodial sentence—numbers and percentage sentenced

Number sentenced

Sentence length	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0 - 6 months											2
6 - 12 Months											
12 - 18 Months											
18 - 24 Months											
2 - 3 Years											
3 - 4 Years											
4+ Years											

	Percentage sentenced										
Sentence length	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
0—6 months											100.00
6—12 Months											
12—18 Months											
18—24 Months											
2—3 Years											
3—4 Years											
4+ Years											

Notes:

1. These data are based on the offences of publication of material in connection with marketing of a knife that suggests it is suitable for use in combat or encouraging violent behaviour.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice 4 July 2008

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 received (*a*) a fine and (*b*) a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each year since the Act was introduced. [217121]

Mr. Straw: Section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 relates to charges of carrying an offensive weapon or article with a blade or point on school premises and the figures given in the following tables relate to total numbers sentenced and those given (*a*) a fine and (*b*) custodial sentence under this Act in the last 10 years. Data for the last 20 years are not stored electronically and cannot be provided without prohibitive cost.

Number of persons sentenced and percentage given fines and immediate custody for carrying offensive weapons or bladed articles on school premises, 1996 to 2006

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number sentenced	15	38	36	36	62	80	78	109	139	75	90
Number given fines	7	6	4	9	10	20	9	14	21	4	2
Percentage given fines	46.7	15.8	11.1	25.0	16.1	25.0	11.5	12.8	15.1	5.3	2.2
Number given immediate custody	1	7	5	5	13	6	12	10	16	8	8
Percentage given immediate custody	6.7	12.4	13.4	13.4	14.6	13.0	14.5	14.1	14.2	14.6	14.0

Lengths of custodial sentence—number and percentage sentenced

	Number sentenced										
Sentence length	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
0-6 months	1	6	1	3	8	4	9	6	13	5	4
6-12 months			1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
12-18 months			3		1		1		1	2	2
18-24 months					1			1			1
2-3 years					1			1			
3-4 years		1		1							
4+ years											

	Percentage sentenced										
Sentence length	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
0-6 months	6.7	15.8	2.8	8.3	12.9	5.0	11.5	5.5	9.4	6.7	4.4
6-12 months			2.8	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.1
12-18 months			8.3		1.6		1.3	0.0	0.7	2.7	2.2
18-24 months					1.6			0.9			1.1
2-3 years					1.6			0.9			
3-4 years		2.6		2.8							
4+ years											

Notes:

1. These data are based on the offences of possession of an offensive weapon or article with a blade or point on school premises under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of having an article with a blade or point under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 received (*a*) a fine and (*b*) a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to

18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each year since the Act was introduced. [217122]

Mr. Straw: The figures in the following tables show those charged with possessing an article with a blade or point under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and show those given *(a)* a custodial sentence and the length of that custodial sentence and *(b)* a fine since these offences became available on 1 September 1996.

Number of persons sentenced and percentage given fines and immediate custody for carrying an article with a blade or point

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number sentenced[1]	902	3,360	3,804	3,564	3,562	4,364	5,326	5,399	5,908	6,002	6,334
Number given fines	453	1,181	1,187	1,032	996	1,164	1,356	1,289	1,148	953	691
Percentage given fines	50.2	35.1	31.2	29.0	28.0	26.7	25.5	23.9	19.4	15.9	10.9
Number given immediate custody	56	375	550	536	506	592	773	761	815	970	1,075
Percentage given immediate custody	6.2	11.2	14.5	15.0	14.2	13.6	14.5	14.1	13.8	16.2	17.0

[1] These data are based on the offences of possession of an article with a blade or point on school premises and possession of an article with a blade or point in a public place.

Notes

1 These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2 These offences came into force from 1 September 1996.

Source

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice, 4 July 2008

Lengths of custodial sentence: number and percentage sentenced

	Number sentenced										
Sentence length	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
0-6 months	55	364	528	521	493	577	736	723	780	910	1,002
6-12 months	0	5	18	11	11	10	29	30	30	50	61
12-18 months	1	6	2	4	1	4	7	5	5	9	9
18-24 months	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	3
2-3 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3-4 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] These data are based on the offences of possession of an article with a blade or point on school premises and possession of an article with a blade or point in a public place.

Notes

1 These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2 These offences came into force from 1 September 1996.

Source

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice, 4 July 2008

	Percentage sentenced										
Sentence length	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
0-6 months	6.1	10.8	13.9	14.6	13.8	13.2	13.8	13.4	13.2	15.2	15.8
6-12 months		0.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0
12-18 months	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
18-24 months			0.1					0.1			
2-3 years											
3-4 years											
4+ years											

[1] These data are based on the offences of possession of an article with a blade or point on school premises and possession of an article with a blade or point in a public place.

Notes

1 These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2 These offences came into force from 1 September 1996.

Source

NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice, 4 July 2008

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people from each age group convicted under section 1 of the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [217123]

Mr. Straw: The information is given in the following table.

Persons sentenced[1] under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959[2], by age, 2002-06

		Total sentenced	Fine	Fine (percentage)	Immediate custody	Immediate custody (percentage)
2002	10-17	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	18-20	2	0	0	1	50
	21 and over	2	0	0	0	0
2003	10-17	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	18-20	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	21 and over	4	1	25	1	25
2004	10-17	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	18-20	1	0	0	0	0
	21 and over	9	7	78	0	0
2005	10-17	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	18-20	1	0	0	0	0
	21 and over	7	3	43	0	0
2006	10-17	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	18-20	0	0	[3]	0	[3]
	21 and over	4	1	25	1	25

[1] Principal offence.

[2] Summary offences. Relating to offences in connection with offensive weapons.

[3] No persons sentenced.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS, Analytical Services

Offensive Weapons: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for offences of selling knives to persons under *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16-years-old in each of the last five years. [217153]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons found guilty of offences relating to selling knives to under 16-year-olds, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Prior to October 2007 it was not an offence to sell knives to 16 and 17-year-olds. This was amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.141A (1) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.6(1) as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. Therefore there were no convictions for the sale of knives to 16 and 17-year-olds in England and Wales for the period 2002 to 2006.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty of offences relating to selling knives to under 16-year-olds, in England and Wales, 2002-06

	Found guilty
2002	3
2003	9
2004	5
2005	19
2006	35

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute and corresponding offence description: Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.141A (1) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.6(1). Any person who sells to a person under age of 16 years a knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.

Source:

CJEAU Office for Criminal Justice Reform Ministry of Justice

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions he had with trades union representatives on the White Paper on party finance and expenditure prior to its publication; [215302]

(2) what representations his Department received from trades unions on the White Paper on party finance and expenditure prior to its publication. [215303]

Bridget Prentice: In his capacity as Secretary of State for Justice, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) neither has had meetings with, nor received representations from, trade unions in relation to the White Paper party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom. In his capacity as his party's representative leading the cross-party talks on party funding my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has discussed these issues with trade union representatives and many others on a number of occasions.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice over what period of time he plans to consult further with political parties on legislative or regulatory changes, further to the recommendations of the party finance and expenditure White Paper. [215326]

Bridget Prentice: Our proposals for reform are largely based on recommendations from the review of the funding of political parties by Sir Hayden Phillips, and the subsequent inter-party talks he conducted. The review conducted wide-ranging consultation with both political parties and the wider public. Since the talks ended the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) and I have continued discussions with interested parties.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor said on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 691-704, we intend to introduce a Bill taking forward these proposals prior to summer recess. This will ensure that there will be opportunity for scrutiny and discussion of the Bill prior to its formal consideration in Parliament.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the receiving or sending prison is responsible for making arrangements with the escort contractor on a prisoner's transfer transport between prisons; what guidelines are in place on the number of days a transfer is to be completed in; and if he will make a statement. [216416]

Maria Eagle: Arrangements for transferring prisoners between establishments are co-ordinated through the population management section of the National Offender Management Service. The escort service is provided under contract by GSL UK Ltd. Sending establishments are responsible for processing prisoners' requests to transfer which are considered by receiving establishments against their acceptance criteria and available spaces. Transfers agreed by Thursday of one week are routinely scheduled to take place the following week. However, population pressures across the prison estate may sometimes delay transfers.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what harm reduction strategies in respect of Class A drug taking are in place in prisons in England and Wales. [216949]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care that incorporates a harm reduction strategy for class A drug misusers within which:

- Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) teams provide harm minimisation advice to drug users in prisons and prior to release;
- substitution prescribing is a key element of the prisons Integrated Drug Treatment System which will reduce the harms caused by class A drug use, including injecting behaviour and the risk of overdose on release;
- disinfecting tablets are freely available in the majority of prisons;
- a Hepatitis B vaccination programme is running in over 100 prisons; and
- working closely with the Drug Interventions Programme and Offender Managers to ensure continuity of treatment on release.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the trends in the availability of drugs in prisons. [216950]

Mr. Hanson: Trends of drug misuse in prisons are kept under regular review. The level of drug misuse in prisons, as measured by random mandatory drug testing, has reduced by 63 per cent. since the 1996-97 financial year.

David Blakey a former Inspector of Constabulary was asked to conduct a review of the effectiveness of measures to keep drugs out of prisons. His report, published on 7 July, makes 10 recommendations which the Government have accepted in full.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to reduce the availability of Class A drugs in prisons. [216951]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive range of measures is in place to prevent illegal drugs from entering prisons.

On 7 July 2008 the Government published David Blakey's review into the effectiveness of the Prison Service's measures for disrupting the supply of illegal drugs into prisons. He made 10 recommendations, ranging the introduction of mobile phone blocking technology, new technology for searching and improvements to intelligence gathering. The Government have accepted all of the recommendations.

Television: Licensing

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were found guilty of television licence evasion in Leicester in 2007. [216291]

Maria Eagle: Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Coordination

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 528-29W, on departmental coordination, of which cross-departmental groups the Government Equalities Office is a member. [210928]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Offices supports Ministers in their work on Cabinet Subcommittees, for example attending the Domestic Affairs (Communities and Equalities), Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Economic Development Official Committee. The Government Equalities Office is also a member of several cross-departmental groups. These include the Cross Departmental Equality Board, the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) Board of Management, the Race Equality Forum and the Employment PSA Delivery Board.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the average cost to the Government Equalities Office was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215184]

Barbara Follett: The average monthly cost to the Government Equalities Office since its introduction on 12 October 2007 of employing a press officer and a media officer in 2007-08 was £11,801.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many permanent staff in the Government Equalities Office are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [215579]

Barbara Follett: None.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications the Government Equalities Office has submitted since its establishment. [215542]

Barbara Follett: No such applications have been submitted by the GEO since it was established on 12 October 2008.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent by the Government Equalities Office on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215221]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office only subscribes to newspapers and only started doing so in May this year. The cost in that month was £45.63 and we should spend a similar amount each month.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff in the Government Equalities Office since its creation. [215614]

Barbara Follett: Since the creation of the Government Equalities Office on the 12 October 2007, no ID cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen by staff.

Females: Public Sector

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government has taken to encourage more black and minority ethnic women to *(a)* apply and *(b)* stand as candidates for public office. [204167]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Government are committed to increasing women's representation in political and public life, and recognises that black and minority ethnic women remain particularly under represented. The empowerment of black, Asian and minority ethnic women is one of the Ministers for women's priorities announced in July 2007.

In 2002 the Government introduced legislation that allowed positive measures to be taken by political parties to increase the number of women candidates. In March 2008 we announced an extension to the period during which parties can use all-women short lists for candidate selection for local, national and European elections from 2015 to 2030.

Less than 1 per cent. of local councillors are black, Asian and minority ethnic women. To be more reflective of society this number needs to increase to around 1,000. That is why the Government have established a cross party taskforce to encourage more black, Asian and minority ethnic women to become councillors. This is chaired by Baroness Uddin, the first Muslim woman to sit in the House of Lords.

The taskforce will take into account the findings of the independent Councillors Commission which was set up last year by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This reported in December 2008 and made recommendations to encourage a more diverse range of people to become councillors so that communities are better represented. The Government's response will be published in the summer.

The Department of Communities and Local Government also helps fund Operation Black Vote, an independent organisation which works to increase civic engagement by people from ethnic minority communities. Programmes run by OBV include shadowing schemes for MPs, councillors, and magistrates.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication the Government Equalities Office subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215672]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office does not subscribe to the *Morning Star* publication.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths of children have been attributed to *(a)* brain cancer and *(b)* leukaemia in the last three years. [216378]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 July 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths among children have been attributed to (a) brain cancer and (b) leukaemia in the last three years. (216378)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) brain cancer and (b) leukaemia, for children aged under 16 years, for 2004 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths with an underlying cause of (a) brain cancer and (b) leukaemia,[1] children aged under 16 years;[2] England and Wales, 2004-06[3]

		Deaths
	Brain cancer	*Leukaemia*
2004	82	65
2005	79	54
2006	88	75

[1] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C71 for brain cancer and C91-C95 for leukaemia

[2] For the purposes of mortality statistics, children are defined as persons under the age of 16. Figures exclude deaths at ages under 28 days.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments were completed by his Department for a cost in excess of £0.5 million in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08 to which the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or equivalent was applied; how many such buildings were assessed as (A) pass, (B) good, (C) very good and (D) excellent; and if he will make a statement; [213687]

(2) how many *(a)* new builds and *(b)* major refurbishments for a cost in excess of £0.5 million were completed by his Department in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [213715]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has not completed any new builds or major refurbishments during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the standard retirement age in the Prime Minister's Office is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214137]

Mr. Watson: From 1 October 2006 the Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, changed its retirement age from 60 to 65 years for all grades in line with Employment Equality (Age) Regulations. The expectation is that the Department will no longer have a standard retirement age by year 2011, but this is being kept under review.

The numbers of Cabinet Office people allowed to work beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years were:

	Number
2003	13
2004	15
2005	16
2006	[1]15
	[2]0
2007	7

[1] Up to 30 September

[2] From 1 October

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Waiting Lists

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the use of waiting lists for allotments. [214937]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are responsible for keeping and managing waiting list for allotments.

In liaison with CLG, the Local Government Association revised a good practice guide, "Growing in the Community", in March 2008. The guide advises local authorities to reduce waiting lists for allotments by promoting vacancies across local authority boundaries. A free copy was sent to all local authorities and is now available on request from the LGA.

Planning Policy guidance 17 encourages local authorities to assess the needs of their communities for a range of open spaces, and to address deficiencies. It also suggests that authorities should allocate sites within their plans for the provision of new open spaces.

PPG17 advises local authorities to use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities in their areas. Local standards should include:

1. Quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed).
2. A qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities).
3. Accessibility (including distance thresholds and considering of the cost of using a facility).

Approved Premises: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning permission is required to convert a domestic dwelling into a bail hostel. [216003]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for local planning authorities to determine in the first instance whether a material change of use has occurred or would occur, and also whether planning permission is required. These decisions need to be made on a case by case basis taking into account individual circumstances, and by reference to the Town and Country (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended).

A bail hostel with the characteristics of a residential institution and where there is provision of accommodation and care may be considered to be a class C2 use. Alternatively, a bail hostel could be regarded as 'sui generis', that is, of its own kind, if it is not considered that it could fit comfortably into any use class. In general, if a local planning authority considers a bail hostel to be within class C2 or 'sui generis', then planning permission would usually be required for a change of use from a domestic dwelling.

Where there is a group of people living together in a single household in a domestic dwelling, it would not necessarily be the case that a material change of use would occur simply because the residents were subject to other restrictions or controls. If the amenity impacts are consistent with those typical of a residential dwelling, it is likely that there would be no requirement for planning permission. This, however, would be for the local authorities to determine.

Co-operative Wholesale Society

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates meetings have taken place between Ministers and officials from her Department and representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society since 1 May 2005 on the development of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's land within Harborough District; where each meeting took place; and who attended each. [216536]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: There have been no meetings between Ministers at Communities and Local Government and the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) since 1 May 2005. As part of the process for taking forward the eco-towns programme officials have met with members of CWS, who have submitted proposals for an eco-town at Pennbury (Stoughton). The majority of these meetings have been as part of the further assessment of the proposal, in particular following its shortlisting in April and along with the relevant local authorities. This includes attendance at the eco-town joint technical group meetings and also the Eco-towns Challenge Panel. As we further consult and assess the shortlisted eco-town proposals we expect these meetings to continue.

Council Housing: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities are due to receive a negative housing revenue account subsidy in 2008-09; what the level of each negative subsidy is; and how many local authority tenants there are in each of these local authorities. [215903]

Mr. Iain Wright: The data are shown in the following table. We do not collect information on the number of tenancies in each authority; the table shows the number of relevant dwellings for each authority.

Local authority	*Dwellings*	*Subsidy (£)*
Adur	2,718	-2,379,650
Alnwick	1,771	-381,354
Arun	3,471	-3,576,407
Ashford	5,302	-3,294,449
Babergh	3,568	-4,606,132
Barking	19,678	-17,007,271
Barnet	11,117	-12,042,903
Barrow	2,781	-55,640
Basildon	11,581	-3,110,904
Bassetlaw	7,004	-2,886,842
Berwick	1,933	-1,408,660
Birmingham	64,233	-8,083,506
Blaby	2,218	-2,159,692
Bolsover	5,462	-4,758,038
Bournemouth	5,166	-3,334,058
Bracknell	[1]0	-6,683
Brentwood	2,560	-3,548,489
Bridgnorth	2,377	-3,072,562
Brighton and Hove	12,385	-2,426,905
Bristol	28,679	-5,562,715
Broxtowe	4,642	-3,223,735
Bury	8,383	-4,316,737
Cambridge	7,568	-11,762,891
Cannock Chase	5,658	-3,241,500
Canterbury	5,308	-5,097,607
Caradon	3,561	-3,050,465
Carrick	3,719	-817,525
Castle Point	1,553	-2,005,118
Charnwood	5,888	-3,359,625
Cheltenham	4,687	-1,668,785
Chesterfield	9,917	-5,501,436
City of York	8,059	-5,286,644
Colchester	6,358	-2,253,323
Corby	4,904	-3,093,312
Crawley	8,290	-13,877,873
Croydon	14,106	-16,029,836
Dacorum	10,658	-18,912,495
Darlington	5,519	-506,384
Dartford	4,377	-5,063,008
Daventry	[2]0	[2]-1,488
Dover	4,667	-5,230,192
Dudley	23,570	-16,994,511
Durham	6,208	-1,901,230
East Devon	4,302	-5,358,394
East Riding	11,073	-9,392,480
Ellesmere Port	5,711	-4,547,005
Enfield	11,880	-8,375,326
Epping Forest	6,619	-10,648,532
Exeter	5,088	-4,359,164
Fareham	2,423	-2,199,529
Gedling	3,439	-2,518,606
Gloucester	4,566	-1,536,163
Gosport	3,259	-3,176,892
Gravesham	6,023	-5,969,995
Great Yarmouth	6,173	-2,675,660
Guildford	5,414	-10,360,394
Harlow	9,998	-12,052,992
Harrogate	3,936	-2,457,628
Harrow	5,073	-6,555,933
Havering	10,879	-12,562,573
High Peak	4,135	-1,946,606
Hillingdon	10,752	-10,461,727
Hinckley	3,413	-3,462,184
Ipswich	8,285	-6,133,576
Kettering	3,853	-3,106,606
Kingston upon Thames	4,870	-6,608,682
Lancaster	3,846	-1,344,808
Lewes	3,286	-2,973,426
Lincoln	8,013	-555,651
Luton	8,303	-5,702,451
Mansfield	6,846	-1,030,703
Medway Towns	3,088	-1,387,488

Local authority	*Dwellings*	*Subsidy (£)*
Melton	1,916	-1,501,822
Merton	6,528	-8,835,210
Mid Devon	3,120	-3,304,663
Mid Suffolk	3,493	-3,542,452
Milton Keynes	12,673	-10,183,856
NE Derbyshire	8,263	-6,535,215
New Forest	5,044	-7,940,314
Newark	5,462	-2,279,765
North Cornwall	3,393	-2,522,056
North Kesteven	3,841	-2,600,713
North Tyneside	15,921	-1,407,753
North Warwick	2,807	-3,457,390
Northampton	12,342	-9,082,910
Norwich	15,928	-6,082,096
Nuneaton	6,102	-3,892,244
NW Leicester	4,517	-4,403,257
Oadby and Wigston	1,269	-939,218
Oswestry	1,930	-1,519,839
Oxford City	7,955	-10,612,055
Plymouth	15,317	-1,890,658
Poole	4,648	-3,401,007
Portsmouth	15,339	-4,530,916
Reading	7,427	-4,589,009
Redbridge	4,718	-4,616,277
Redditch	6,114	-5,754,512
Richmondshire	1,632	-1,020,076
Rotherham	21,322	-2,066,628
Rugby	3,906	-3,381,074
Runnymede	3,074	-5,957,731
Rutland	1,244	-1,358,645
Salisbury	5,406	-7,510,880
Sandwell[1]	30,843	-507,297
Sedgefield	8,647	-3,277,201
Sedgemoor	4,171	-3,604,911
Selby	3,189	-2,685,114
Shepway	3,457	-2,311,025
Slough	6,640	-7,8[illegible]361
Solihull	10,860	-4,381,743
South Beds	5,295	-8,527,225
South Cambridge	5,643	-11,851,560
South Derby	3,128	-2,913,848
South Holland	3,930	-3,731,605
South Kesteven	6,316	-5,653,141
South Lakeland	3,216	-3,388,743
South Tyneside	18,598	-3,182,182
Southampton	17,312	-5,192,845
Southend-on-Sea	6,227	-2,714,261
St. Albans[1]	5,319	-9,699,569
Stevenage	8,384	-12,778,546
Stockport	11,634	-1,373,712
Stoke-on-Trent	19,740	-5,939,063
Stroud	5,255	-5,885,295
Sutton	6,600	-9,853,047
Swindon	10,631	-9,208,501
Tamworth	4,614	-1,676,915
Tandridge	2,693	-3,675,633
Taunton Deane	6,131	-5,826,075
Tendring	3,267	-1,741,703
Thanet	3,144	-123,583
Three Rivers	[1]0	-7,563
Thurrock	10,369	-8,827,811
Uttlesford	2,887	-5,159,758
Wandsworth	17,278	-15,216,808
Warrington	8,903	-5,294,893
Warwick	5,645	-6,633,130
Waveney	4,672	-3,469,804
Waverley	4,998	-10,059,680
Wealden	3,173	-2,361,759
Welwyn Hatfield	9,413	-16,355,962
West Lancashire	6,444	-4,619,089
Winchester	5,121	-8,377,734
Woking	3,495	-5,308,543
Wokingham	2,781	-4,840,898
Wolverhampton	24,025	-6,036,813
Wycombe	6,212	-11,235,835
England	1,079,101	-756,397,779

[1] Indicates stock transferred and only residual activity on HRA

Note:

Data are provisional estimates taken from 200801 Advance claim form

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is expected to be *(a)* collected in negative subsidy and *(b)* allocated in positive subsidy in the housing revenue account subsidy system in 2008-09. [215904]

Mr. Iain Wright: Only provisional details of total negative subsidy to be collected in 2008-09 and total positive subsidy for the same period taken from the 200801 Advance claim form are available at this stage and are subject to revision as further claim forms are submitted during the year.

The current data from these forms show expected negative subsidy of -£756,397,779 and total positive subsidy of £560,580,841.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the housing revenue account subsidy is expected to be retained by the Exchequer in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [215905]

Mr. Iain Wright: Only provisional details of housing revenue account subsidy entitlements in 2008-09, taken from the 200801 advance claim form, are available at this time and are subject to revision as further claim forms are submitted during the year.

The current data from these forms show a provisional surplus of £195,816,938, although this is subject to change and fluctuations.

Beyond 2008-09, our forecasts will depend on decisions yet to be taken by Ministers on the annual Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination, on which we aim to consult shortly with local authorities.

Council Housing: Offenders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the criteria to be used in the allocation of social housing to former prisoners who are on the Sex Offenders Register. [216976]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2004 the Department wrote to housing authorities to advise them of their duty, under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, to co-operate with the police, probation and the prison service in establishing arrangements to assess and manage the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders. This letter advised housing authorities that the Department expects the duty to co-operate to include such matters as:

providing information on the availability, type and location of housing

offering advice on the suitability of available accommodation, and entering into reciprocal arrangements with Registered Social Landlords and

neighbouring authorities in order to make it easier to achieve a satisfactory housing solution for offenders.

The advice also made clear that the Department expects housing authorities to consider carefully all housing options, including an appropriate allocation within their own stock or nomination to an RSL.

The statutory Allocations Code of Guidance, issued in 2002, advises housing authorities that, where sex offenders are allocated accommodation, this should be in the light of considered decisions about managing risk associated with their release from prison into the community. The code also refers local authorities to earlier guidance issued by the Department in November 1999.

Council Housing: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council dwellings have been *(a)* sold and *(b)* built in Tamworth constituency since 1997. [215846]

Mr. Iain Wright: Between 1997-98 and 2006-07, Tamworth local authority reported 1,395 sales through right to buy.

Over the same period Tamworth local authority reported no local authority new build dwellings.

Source:

Returns from local authority to Communities and Local Government.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for medical priority points were made in each London local authority in each of the last five years; and how many households were awarded medical priority in each year. [216481]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what extent local authorities *(a)* keep and *(b)* equalise away the increased council tax revenue from the construction of additional dwellings within the locality. [215999]

John Healey: Local authorities keep all of the council tax revenue they raise on chargeable dwellings in their area, whether newly constructed or not.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of domestic residences pay only a single person occupancy council tax charge. [217252]

John Healey: Details of the number of domestic properties in England granted a discount on council tax because of single person occupancy can be found in table 2.21 of Local Government Financial Statistics England No 18 2008, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been used to reimburse local council tax billing authorities under provisions for a council tax discount for second homes in each year in which figures are available since financial year 2000-01. [217282]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1640W.

Deprivation Indicators: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will redefine the Index of Multiple Deprivation to take better account of the facilities available for rural populations in remote areas. [217663]

John Healey: The Indices of Deprivation are designed to ensure that deprivation is recognised in all types of areas as deprivation is measured independently of the size of the population. The measurement of deprivation at Super Output Area level rather than ward level also means that we are able to pick up small pockets of deprivation more accurately, and thus are able to pick up pockets of deprivation in rural as well as urban areas.

East Midlands Development Agency

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money the East Midlands Development Agency has disbursed in *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital spending in each of the financial years for which figures are available. [214775]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

EMDA delivers a number of programmes, principally the Single Programme. Also the Coalfields Programme and some elements of the 2000-07 ERDF programme. Not all programmes have a consistent capital/current definition. Please see the following table showing current and capital programme figures for the last five years.

£000

	Current programme	*Capital programme*
2003-04	42,683	54,928
2004-05	44,276	49,081
2005-06	59,140	80,406
2006-07	64,485	73,802
2007-08	65,253	83,686

Empty Property

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been made; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of such orders in helping to bring empty dwellings back into use. [213532]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, 12 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006.

We are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well. We always intended that it should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. Our policy is to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

Since the legislation was introduced, the number of properties empty for longer than six months has fallen by 4 per cent. from 282,461 to 271,252.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what processes are in place to measure the effectiveness of regional management boards in respect of regionalisation of fire control centres; and if she will make a statement. [216509]

Mr. Dhanda: It is for the FRAs in each region to decide how they want to work together to ensure effective FiReControl delivery. The delivery mechanisms include regional management boards.

Significant progress continues to be achieved in delivering the FiReControl Project and the Regional Control Centres. Seven local authority control led companies have been established. An eighth is expected to be in place shortly. Seven buildings are complete, with London and east of England on track. Seven out of eight regional control centre director posts have been filled, five are already in post. London as a single authority is making its own arrangements about its structures.

Housing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what definition her Department uses of intermediate market in respect of housing; [217258]

(2) whether her Department's targets for new housing include targets for the provision of intermediate market housing. [217259]

Mr. Iain Wright: Intermediate affordable housing is defined in Planning Policy Statement 3 'Housing' (PPS3) and can include shared equity schemes, such as the Government's HomeBuy scheme, other low cost homes for sale and homes for intermediate rent, which are above social rent but below market rent. Low cost market housing is outside of this definition.

We are investing £8.4 billion for affordable housing in 2008-11—a £3 billion increase compared to the previous three years and we are committed to delivering at least 70,000 more affordable homes a year by 2010. This includes 45,000 new affordable homes for rent a year by 2010-11—a 50 per cent. increase on the target for 2007-08 and 75,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes over the next three years funded mainly by the Housing Corporation, contributing to our overall housing supply aspirations.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings have been constructed in *(a)* Lower Lea and Stratford, *(b)* The Royals, *(c)* Greenwich Peninsula, *(d)* Woolwich, *(e)* Barking Riverside and Town Centre, *(f)* Thurrock, *(g)* Basildon, *(h)* Ebbsfleet Valley, *(i)* Kent Thames Waterfront and *(j)* Medway Waterfront and Chattenden since 1 April 2005; and if she make a statement. [216980]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is not available for the small areas requested. The following table presents reported new build completions for the local authorities in which these areas are located.

Local Authority	*Area*	*New build completions in 2007-08*
Tower Hamlets	Lower Lea and Stratford	1,332
Newham	The Royals	511[1]
Greenwich	Greenwich Peninsula and Woolwich	651[1]
Barking and Dagenham	Barking Riverside and town centre	800
Thurrock	Thurrock	178[1]
Basildon	Basildon	730
Dartford	Ebbsfleet Valley	907
Medway	Kent Thames Waterfront and Medway Waterfront and Chattenden	647[1]

[1] Indicates incomplete data where a local authority has reported for only part of the year

Source:

New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC). The local authority figures are as reported and do not include imputation estimates.

Housing: Domestic Safety

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department collects on the implementation of the housing health and safety ratings system; and if she will make a statement. [217105]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1501W.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department and its agencies have made of the rate of change in sale prices of *(a)* flats and *(b)* houses in each of the last 12 months. [216002]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on house price changes by dwelling type are available from the monthly CLG house price index available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingmarket/publications/communities-local/

Housing: Public Participation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many consultation exercises her Department has initiated seeking the views of property managers since its consultation on statements of accounts and designated client accounts. [216974]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest consultation exercise on the statements of account and designated client accounts took place in July 2007.

Consultation exercises were carried out prior to this in November 1998, August 2000 (The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Draft Bill and Consultation Paper), and June 2004.

These exercises have informed the proposed amendments to the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 which are contained in the Housing and Regeneration Bill currently before Parliament.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of homes met the decent homes standard at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the number which will meet the standard in 2013. [216280]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2006 63.2 per cent. of all homes in England met the decent homes standard, as reported by the English House Condition Survey.

We have not made any estimate of the number of homes which will meet the decent homes standard in 2013.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes in each region meet the criteria for level *(a)* 3, *(b)* 4, *(c)* 5 and *(d)* 6 under the Code for Sustainable Homes; [214297]

(2) how many homes have been built in each region which meet the criteria for level *(a)* 3, *(b)* 4, *(c)* 5 and *(d)* 6 under the Code for Sustainable Homes in each year since 2000. [214298]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the code was launched in April 2007, 1,633 developments representing over 45,000 homes have been registered to the scheme. It was always anticipated that there would be a time lag from the code's inception to the completion of substantial numbers of new code homes due to the time it takes to incorporate the code standards within the design and land acquisition process.

The register of code certificates and the data underpinning it are administered by the BRE on behalf of the Government, who provide reports on a monthly basis. A breakdown of these figures by local authority area, Government office region and by landlord type is provided on a quarterly basis. We are due to receive the first quarterly report in late July 2008.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether homes with a level 6 Code for Sustainable Homes are restricted in the white goods that they can use, with particular regard to the make of *(a)* tumble drier and *(b)* washing machine. [216009]

Mr. Iain Wright: Credits are awarded under the code where energy efficient white goods are supplied to each dwelling or where information is provided relating to energy efficient white goods under the EU Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme.

A developer who chooses to build to code level 6 will need to gain over 90 per cent. of the credits available within the code and so may choose to provide highly efficient white goods in order to help achieve this. However, provision of such white goods is not itself mandatory and the code in no way restricts the make of goods provided.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 39W, on Housing: Thames Gateway, if she will provide a breakdown by local government administrative area of the location of the 26,400 new dwellings completed in the period January 2003 to March 2007 within the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [216810]

Caroline Flint: The figure of 26,400 new build dwellings included in the previous answer is an estimate of new build dwellings within the Thames Gateway area. The estimate was produced by apportioning the total number of new build completions in 'Thames Gateway' local authorities with information from Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS).

The following table provides an approximate breakdown by local authority of the 26,400 new build total.

New dwellings completed between April 2003 and March 2007

Local authority	*New build completions*
Barking and Dagenham	220
Basildon	600
Bexley	690
Castle Point	810
Dartford	1,750
Gravesham	820
Greenwich	4,840
Hackney	190
Havering	160
Lewisham	1,950
Medway UA	2,530
Newham	1,410
Rochford	230
Southend-on-Sea UA	1,250
Swale	2,400
Thurrock UA	2,450
Tonbridge and Malling	20
Tower Hamlets	4,390
Thames Gateway	26,400

The estimates using these sources are approximate. Communities and Local Government is working with the Valuation Office Agency on a methodology to develop a more accurate measure of net dwelling supply (which takes account of new build, change of use and demolitions) within the Thames Gateway area. It will then be possible to disaggregate the figures more precisely to local authority level, but not before further quality assurance.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to each London local authority through the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme in each year since its inception. [216663]

John Healey: The allocations to each London local authority in each year of the scheme can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/endyr3data.xls

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what notifications her Department has received from local authorities of cases of properties becoming intentionally dilapidated to avoid empty property business rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [216019]

John Healey: As I indicated to the Legislation Committee on 26 March in the debate on the Non- Domestic Rating (Unoccupied property) Regulations the Government would monitor the impact of the reforms. The Government have asked local authorities to provide information about how reforms to the empty property rate are working.

The information provided will be based on the informed judgment of individual local authority officers and is being gathered as a broad indicator of the scale of possible avoidance activity and not a detailed survey. As at 20 June the Department has been notified of four possible incidences where local authorities consider that avoidance of empty property rates may have been a factor in the deliberate dilapidation of a property. There is no suggestion the actions in question were unlawful.

Non-domestic Rates: Out of Town Shopping Centres

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rules apply to the apportionment of business rates for *(a)* out-of-town retail premises and *(b)* car parks which serve the customers of such premises. [217276]

John Healey: None.

Each rateable non-domestic property that is separately occupied is given its own rateable value based on its rental value. In practice the rent paid, and hence rateable value assessed on a retail unit, fully reflects the benefit of any car parking provision.

Non-domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent work has been undertaken by her Department on reviewing business rate exemptions. [216008]

John Healey: The last review of business rate exemptions was conducted following a Lyons inquiry recommendation to review all reliefs and exemptions within business rates. The pre-Budget report 2007 announced that the review had concluded.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what monies were vired from the growth area funding originally allocated to the Thames Gateway area to the Olympic Delivery Authority in each of the last three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [216942]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: A memorandum was provided to the Communities and Local Government Committee on 5 March 2008, as per the entry at Appendix III, paragraph 1 of the Votes and Proceedings for 25 March 2008, in which the Department's contribution to the Olympics was set out.

Pedestrian Crossings: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many school crossing patrol officers there were in each year since 1990, broken down by local authority area; and if she will make a statement. [217220]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The figures requested are not kept centrally but individually by each local authority.

Planning Obligations

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what auditing procedures are in place to evaluate the use made of section 106 agreement monies received by local authorities as a result of domestic housing developments. [214871]

Mr. Iain Wright: Where a planning obligation ('s106 agreement') requires a contribution to be paid to a local planning authority and for it to be put towards a named piece of infrastructure (eg a play area), the local planning authority would be under an obligation to provide that infrastructure. Developers can enforce planning obligations through the courts.

Copies of planning obligations must be placed on the planning register and Government recommend that local planning authorities monitor the implementation of obligations entered into using standardised systems such as IT databases to ensure that information is readily available to the local community. Such systems should link to the on-line planning register so that the public can access this information from a single source.

Research by University of Sheffield and the Halcrow Group ('Valuing Planning Obligations in England' 2006) estimates that in 2003-04, 74.5 per cent. of LPAs in England used electronic databases to monitor the implementation of planning obligations.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects have been identified for funding under the auspices of the Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan; at what indicative cost; over what period of time; and if she will make a statement. [216811]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: An Economic Development Investment Plan for the Thames Gateway is currently being developed by the three Greater South East Regional Development Agencies. Projects identified for funding will be set out in the plan.

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much capital has been spent on social housing in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210973]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department collects information on housing capital expenditure from local authorities through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) annual return. Constituency level information is not collected centrally. The parliamentary constituency of Jarrow falls into two local authorities: South Tyneside and Gateshead and figures for these are provided instead.

Capital works includes (a) installation, replacement or major repair; (b) demolition and conversion; and (c) new building/acquisition. Local authorities' reporting on capital expenditure is based on the work to properties where either they are the owner or they share financial responsibility for capital works.

Since 1998-99 the data have been collected first through the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) and then by the HSSA return from 2001-02. The information in table 1 is published and available via the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/hssa200607/

Table 1: Local authority housing capital expenditure

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gateshead	9	9	14	15	14	15	19	31	62
South Tyneside	9	11	12	19	18	15	14	17	17
Region									
North East	107	116	136	156	159	189	193	257	304
National									
England	1,660	1,569	1,816	2,139	2,345	2,641	3,176	3,385	3,313

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Equivalent capital expenditure figures for registered social landlords are not collected. Table 2 shows Government investment in social housing through the Housing Corporation's grant funding. This excludes funds that have been invested by registered social landlords either through their own resources or through private sector borrowing.

Table 2: Housing corporation affordable housing programme expenditure on social rent

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gateshead	1.1	0.8	0.6	2.9	4.1	4.5	2.9	2.8	1.9
South Tyneside	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.0	2.4	4.2	1.4	3.9	2.6
Region									
North East	15.4	15.7	15.8	18.6	19.6	34.9	35.4	31.9	38.7
National									
England	446.5	522.8	575.7	646.5	760.2	1171	1050	913.2	1432.5

Source:
Housing Corporation—Investment Management System

Social Rented Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the extent of over-crowding in the registered social landlord sector in *(a)* England and *(b)* London; and if she will make a statement. [216480]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Survey of English Housing indicates that over the three years to 2006-07, the number of overcrowded households living in social rented accommodation was estimated to be 228,000 in England and 97,000 in London.

Estimates of the numbers of overcrowded households in the local authority sector and the registered social landlord sector are not published separately.

Travelling People: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance her Department and its predecessor has produced on Traveller camps. [216013]

Mr. Iain Wright: The overarching planning guidance on Gypsy and Traveller sites is contained within ODPM Circular 01/2006 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites" published on 2 February 2006. Separate guidance on sites for Travelling Showpeople is contained within Communities and Local Government Circular 04/2007 "Planning for Travelling Showpeople", published on 21 August 2007.

In addition, the following publications have been produced as part of the overall planning framework for Gypsy and Traveller sites:

"Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites"" Good Practice Guide: May 2008;

"Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments": October 2007;

"Local Authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers": May 2007;

"Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers, Part 2: Unauthorised Development of Caravan Sites": October 2007; and

"Guide to effective use of enforcement powers, Part 1: unauthorised encampments": February 2006 (in conjunction with the Home Office).

All of these publications are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/gypsiesandtravellers

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214720]

Mr. Woodward: Details of the buildings leases which are due to expire in the next four years are set out as follows. Decisions on renewal will be made on a case by case basis.

12th Floor Windsor House, Belfast
22nd Floor Windsor House, Belfast
33 St. James Square, London
Calgach Centre, Londonderry
Interpoint, York Street, Belfast
Buckingham Gate, London
St. Anne's House, Belfast
1st and 2nd Floors, 6-10 William Street, Belfast
Unit 2 Portland Avenue, Glengormley
52 Bridge Street, Banbridge
21 Kelvin Avenue, Omagh
68 Broadway, Ballymena
Castlewellan Road, Banbridge
Brownlow, Craigavon
English Street, Downpatrick
Shore Road, Enniskillen
Broad Street, Magherafelt
The Mall, Newry
Library Court, Belfast
471 Falls Road, Belfast
39 Howard Street, Belfast
Catherine Street, Limavady
40-44 Great Patrick Street, Belfast
106 Bridge Street, Ballymena
12 Lodge Road, Coleraine
9 Kirk Avenue Magherafelt
1d Monaghan Street, Newry
31-33 High Street, Portadown
21b Catherine Street, Limavady
Unit 2, 21-23 Carnmoney Road, Glengormley,
Unit 5, Antrim Technology Park, Belfast Road,
2 Church Street, Downpatrick
30 Northlands Row, Dungannon
Unit 4 Wallace Studios, 27 Wallace Avenue, Lisburn
Argyle Business Centre, 39 North Howard Street, Belfast
Sally Gardens Community Centre, Sally Garden Lane, Belle Steel Road, Poleglass

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the value of his Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214726]

Mr. Woodward: The Department's Fixed Asset Register, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs, records details of computer systems under IT equipment, this includes computer hardware, software, licenses, servers and output devices.

The last audited records at 31 March 2008 show that the purchase cost of current IT equipment was £21,249,160 and the net book value of this equipment at that time was £8,814,268.

The Department's resource accounts comply with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216418]

Mr. Woodward: At present 18 staff have access to the Northern Ireland Office IT Infrastructure at home.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215575]

Mr. Woodward: In relation to the first part of this question the number of staff classed as without post within the Northern Ireland Office is very small and consequently we cannot provide further information in order to respect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

Where staff are classed as without post, the Department ensures that the individuals concerned receive active support to help them find a post quickly. Access to vacancy information within the Department, other Northern Ireland Departments and across Whitehall Departments is provided and while without posts the Department ensures that the staff are actively engaged in temporary tasks or project work.

In relation to the second part of the question no members of staff within the *(a)* Department or *(b)* its agencies have been identified as being part of a people action team.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212504]

Mr. Woodward: The estimate of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in the Northern Ireland Office for the 2007-08 financial year, for which figures are available, are shown in the following table.

Grade	*Permanent hourly rate*	*Temporary hourly rate*
		£
A	20.21	18.10
B1	15.97	16.25
B2	12.14	12.14
C	9.79	9.99
D1	7.00	n/a
D2	5.98	5.78

Temporary and permanent staff are paid from the same pay scales but fluctuations in average amounts paid may occur for a number of reasons. For example, if there are a large number of permanent staff with long service who are in the upper reaches of the pay band then the average amount paid to temporary staff, in the same grade, will be lower. Similarly if there are a large number of staff with short service in the lower reaches of the pay band and temporary staff have negotiated starting salaries based on increased skills and experience, the temporary staff average will be higher. There are no temporary D1 staff and we do not hold average pay for hours worked for senior civil service staff as they do not work contracted hours.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215239]

Mr. Woodward: Reimbursable expenses claimed by special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office in the last 10 years are shown in the following table.

	£
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	928.03
2002-03	1,211.68
2003-04	7,010.99
2004-05	11,579.84
2005-06	9,182.01
2006-07	1,952.94
2007-08	1,637.01
2008-09	379.51

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in their staff handbooks and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)*, licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215541]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has not submitted any planning or licensing applications in the last 24 months.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215204]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's total expenditure on newspapers and other publications for the last 24 months are shown in the following table; it is not possible to identify the costs which relate to subscriptions.

Month	*Newspapers expenditure*	*Other publications expenditure*
		£
July 2006	2,928	12,658
August 2006	6,820	25,279
September 2006	4,304	38,281
October 2006	5,776	25,197
November 2006	9,027	41,391
December 2006	4,229	44,925
January 2007	7,430	42,948
February 2007	5,140	29,330
March 2007	5,655	27,572
April 2007	6,020	17,007
May 2007	3,930	27,229
June 2007	8,582	6,317
July 2007	1,840	13,887
August 2007	5,009	22,587
September 2007	6,309	18,385
October 2007	6,676	26,437
November 2007	3,918	26,571
December 2007	2,892	28,947
January 2008	5,639	35,456
February 2008	3,948	21,085
March 2008	5,250	19,875
April 2008	3,582	17,099
May 2008	5,469	28,895
June 2008	4,355	30,421

Note

Expenditure for magazines is included within the other publications expenditure and could be provided separately only at disproportionate cost

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [213767]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office records expenditure for new furnishings under the description of furniture and no specific budget is set aside for the purchase of art works. The Department also has fit-out costs for its buildings, this may include expenditure on furniture but it is not possible to isolate these costs.

The Northern Ireland Office has not purchased any new vehicles during these periods.

	Furniture (£)
2006-07	277,400
2007-08	387,775
Total	665,175

Departmental Vetting

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures his Department follows for checking the criminal records of employees; and if he will make a statement. [213135]

Mr. Woodward: All appointees to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are subject to the requirements of HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS). This includes a criminal record check by AccessNI of unspent convictions.

For posts included within the scope of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (Exceptions) Order 1979 spent convictions and cautions are also checked.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of successful applicants for jobs in his Department are subjected to a criminal records check; how many *(a)* successful applicants and *(b)* criminal records checks there were in each of the last 10 years; how many successful applicants were found to have a criminal record after a criminal records check took place in each of the last 10 years; whether the selection of successful candidates to be subjected to a criminal records check is random or targeted; and if he will make a statement. [213155]

Mr. Woodward: All successful applicants for jobs in the NIO are subjected to a criminal records check; these checks are not on a random or targeted basis but are compulsory pre-employment checks.

Recruitment to the Northern Ireland Office and the 11 NI Departments is administered centrally. The detailed information requested on successful applicants and criminal records checks is not available for individual Departments.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214657]

Mr. Woodward: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215461]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table provides figures for the percentage of questions answered within the deadlines.

	Ordinary written		*Named day*	
	Total number of questions	*Percentage on time*	*Total number of questions*	*Percentage on time*
2006	3,284	63	615	41
2007	1,127	66	223	52
2008 (up to 30 June)	327	35	72	46

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [215530]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's Euro-Changeover Plan was last updated in May 2007 and covers the core Department its agencies and NDPB's. The plan has not been published and there are no plans to do so due to the restricted material included in the plan.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214903]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not keep records on the amount spent on food or its origin. However where possible when procuring food we look to source from local suppliers and to use local produce.

It is my understanding that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) propose to publish data by the end of 2008 on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214904]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not keep records on the country of origin, cost or quantity of the food we procure. However where possible when procuring food we look to source from local suppliers and to use local produce.

It is my understanding that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) propose to publish data by the end of 2008 on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments

TREASURY

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 581W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received in 2007 by members of his Department's board to be published. [215298]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208525]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on the destination of mail are not held by the Treasury's postal services provider.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215201]

Angela Eagle: Treasury spending on newspapers and periodicals in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was £109,000 and £112,000 respectively. Payments for newspapers and periodicals are not generally made on a monthly basis therefore provision of the data for each of the last 24 months could be misleading.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [216084]

Angela Eagle: In respect of the Treasury, the Office of Government Commerce and Debt Management, sick absence is recorded separately on the payroll but information relating to sick pay is not available.

For OGC Buying Solutions, the information is given in the following table.

Period	*Amount paid in sick pay (£)*	*Proportion of the annual staffing expenditure Percentage*
2007-08	222,200	2
2006-07	281,954	3
2005-06	168,928	2
2004-05	150,222	2
2003-04	161,456	2

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214652]

Angela Eagle: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which road transport organisations receive rebates of fuel duty; and if he will make a statement. [215505]

Angela Eagle: No road transport organisations receive rebates of main road fuel duty. However, rebated gas oil—often known as red diesel—can be used in agriculture and certain vehicles that are exclusively used off-road. This includes road construction vehicles, digging machines, mobile cranes works trucks, snow clearing machines and gritters.

Red diesel is subject to a duty rate of 9.69p per litre, in comparison to the rate that is applied to main road fuels of 50.35p per litre.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the change in revenue from vehicle excise duty resulting from the change in the effective registration date for band F vehicles from 23 March 2006 to 1 March 2001 set out on page 122 of the Budget 2008 Red Book; what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles affected; and if he will make a statement; [204170]

(2) how much and what proportion of the projected increase in revenue from vehicle excise duty by 2010-11 noted in table 1.2, page 9 of the Budget 2008 Red Book is accounted for by the move of the qualifying registration date for new cars in band F from 23 March 2006 to 1 March 2001; and if he will make a statement; [204172]

(3) on what date he decided that those vehicles registered after 1 March 2001 and falling within vehicle excise duty band F would fall within new bank K in 2009-10 and new band L in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [204173]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2008 announced reforms of the graduated vehicle excise duty structure to strengthen the environmental incentive to develop and purchase fuel-efficient cars.

This includes cars that emit over 225 grams per kilometre, but were purchased after March 2001 and up until March 2006. For historical reasons, these cars pay only £210, while others that emit the same amount, but were purchased from April 2006, pay £400. The Budget included policy to move them to the band appropriate to their emissions levels, but in order to reduce the additional tax paid by these cars in one individual year, it was decided at Budget 2008 that this would be staggered, so that — rather than moving immediately to their correct band, paying £415 or £440 in 2009 — these cars would move to Band K in 2009, paying only £300, before moving to their correct band in 2010, paying either £430 or £455 annually.

There are estimated to be around 3.8 million cars in Band F in total in 2007-08 — including all cars that emit over 186 grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide and were purchased between 2001 and March 2006, and all cars that emit between 186 g/km and 225 g/km and were purchased since March 2006. It is estimated that in 2008-09 there would be around 1.1 million cars (about 3.8 per cent. of all cars) in Band F that were registered before 2006 and emit 226 g/km or more, but this figure would be expected to fall in future years. No estimate has been made of the revenue impact of including this category of cars within their correct emissions band.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of motorists who will be liable for vehicle excise duty at *(a)* a higher, *(b)* a lower and *(c)* the same rate in 2010-11 compared with 2007-08 following the entry into force of the rates announced in Budget 2008; and if he will make a statement; [204171]

(2) what proportion of Band C cars on which vehicle excise duty (VED) was payable in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 will be liable for (i) a higher rate, (ii) a lower rate and (iii) the same rate of vehicle excise duty in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207086]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of motorists who pay vehicle excise duty (VED) on a Band F car and will pay *(a)* a higher rate, *(b)* a lower rate and *(c)* the same rate of VED on the same car in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207061]

(4) what proportion of Band G cars on which vehicle excise duty (VED) was payable in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 will be liable for (i) a higher rate, (ii) a lower rate and (iii) the same rate of VED in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207062]

(5) what proportion of Band F cars on which vehicle excise duty (VED) was payable in 2007-08 will be liable for *(a)* a higher rate, *(b)* a lower rate and *(c)* the same rate of VED in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207063]

(6) what proportion of Band D cars on which vehicle excise duty (VED) was payable in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 will be liable for (i) a higher rate, (ii) a lower rate and (iii) the same rate of VED in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207064]

(7) what proportion of Band E cars on which vehicle excise duty (VED) was payable in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 will be liable for (i) a higher rate, (ii) a lower rate and (iii) the same rate of VED in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [207065]

(8) pursuant to the Financial Secretary's statement of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1471, on vehicle excise duty, what methodology his Department used to estimate that a third of drivers would be better off in 2009-10; what assessment his Department has made of the proportion of drivers who will be no worse off in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [207308]

Angela Eagle: As a result of the Vehicle Excise Duty reforms announced at Budget 2008, in 2009-10, it is estimated that within the 13 new bands, a third of cars will be better off in real terms, and in total, approximately 55 per cent. of cars will be no worse off.

This figure was estimated by looking at the forecast number of cars within graduated VED in 2009-10 — taking into account all vehicles on the road by the end of that financial year (2009-10). The level of VED due in 2009-10 was then compared with the amount that would have been paid in 2008-09 in real terms.

The tables present both the total stock forecast to be in each new VED band in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and also the estimated percentage of cars within each new band that will: pay less, pay the same or pay more in real terms, compared with the previous system.

The stock forecasts are based on DVLA data that was available at the time of the Budget. The Government have not calculated similar figures comparing 2009-10 and 2010-11 rates with those in 2007-08.

2009-10

			Percentage		
Band	*CO_2 (g/km)*	*2009-10*	*Pay less*	*Pay the same*	*Pay more*
A	Up to 100	400	0	100	0
B	101-110	217,000	100	0	0
C	111-120	470,000	100	0	0
D	121-130	670,000	100	0	0
E	131-140	2,394,000	100	0	0
F	141-150	3,087,000	100	0	0
G	151-160	3,256,000	0	100	0
H	161-170	2,400,000	0	50	50
I	171-180	1,785,000	0	0	100
J	181-200	2,577,000	0	0	100
K	201-225	2,550,000	0	0	100
L	226-255	277000	0	0	100
M	Over 255	311000	0	0	100

2009-10

Band	CO_2 (g/km)	2009-10	Percentage Pay less	Pay the same	Pay more
All bands		19,994,000	34	22	44

2010-11

Band	CO_2 (g/km)	2010-11	Percentage Pay less	Pay the same	Pay more
A	Up to 100	9,000	0	100	0
B	101-110	266,000	100	0	0
C	111-120	565,000	20	80	0
D	121-130	822,000	100	0	0
E	131-140	2,813,000	100	0	0
F	141-150	3,393,000	0	100	0
G	151-160	3,560,000	0	100	0
H	161-170	2,558,000	0	40	60
I	171-180	1,912,000	0	0	100
J	181-200	2,714,000	0	0	100
K	201-225	1,535,000	0	0	100
L[1]	226-255	1,002,000	0	0	100
M[1]	Over 255	766,000	0	0	100
All bands		21,915,000	18	39	43

[1] Denotes those where the number of cars is forecast to increase in 2010—not because the overall number of more polluting cars is forecast to increase—but because cars that currently emit these levels of carbon dioxide will for the first time be placed in their correct band.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I am giving her today in response to questions (UIN) 204170, 204172 and 204173.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Secretary's statement of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1471, on vehicle excise duty, (1) if he will *(a)* list the 30 most popular models of car and *(b)* state the evidential basis for the assessment of their popularity; how many versions of each model will attract vehicle excise duty at (i) an increased, (ii) a decreased and (iii) the same rate as a result of the Budget 2008 changes; and if he will make a statement; [207113]

(2) what the 24 models of car are whose drivers will be better off as a result of the graduated vehicle excise duty changes announced in the Budget 2008; and if he will make a statement. [207114]

Angela Eagle: The latest information available to Government on the 30 most popular versions of car comes from commercial sales data purchased from JATO Dynamics Ltd. for 2007. JATO is a leading provider of data in the automotive intelligence field and has partnerships with a large number of motor manufacturers around the world. Sales data are obtained from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and JATO then match this to vehicle specifications (including official carbon dioxide figures) which are provided to them by manufacturers and importers.

The level of detail that they can provide is available only from a very small number of sources.

A table showing a list of the top 30 model versions, in order of popularity, alongside their average carbon dioxide emissions, and the potential impact of the Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) reforms announced at Budget 2008 is as follows. This shows that—in real terms—at least 24 out of the 30 most popular car model versions in 2007 will be better off, or no worse off, in 2009 as a result of the reforms announced at Budget 2008.

It is worth noting that two versions of a very similar Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 litre unleaded appear in the figures. This is because JATO do not have a record of whether a normal or 'Easytronic' transmission is used by this particular vehicle. Arguably, if this vehicle were counted separately, then there would in fact be 25 out of the top 30 cars that are no worse off; however the Government have assumed 24 out of 30.

Make	Model	Body type	No of doors	Engine litres	Fuel type	Transmission type	Transmission description	No of speeds	2007 volume	Average CO_2	2009 band	Current band	Current band
Vauxhall	Astra	hatchback	5	1.6	unleaded	manual	manual	5	10,188	156	G	D	The same
Honda	Jazz	hatchback	5	1.3	unleaded	automatic	continuously trans with manual mode	variable	10,341	139	E	C	Pay less
Vauxhall[1]	Corsa	hatchback	3	1.2	unleaded	manual	manual	5	10,449	142	F	C	Pay less
Vauxhall	Corsa	hatchback	5	1.2	unleaded	manual		5	11,190	140	E	C	Pay less
Vauxhall	Astra	hatchback	5	1.4	unleaded	manual	manual	5	11,563	147	F	C	Pay less
Fiat	Punto	hatchback	3	1.2	unleaded	manual	manual	5	11,626	139	E	C	Pay less
Volkswagen	Passat	sedan	4	2.0	diesel	manual		6	11,825	157	G	D	The same
Land Rover	Freelander	sport utility vehicle	5	2.2	diesel	manual	manual	6	12,061	194	J	F	Pay more
Toyota	Auris	hatchback	5	1.6	unleaded	manual		5	12,115	164	H	D	Pay more
Honda	Civic	hatchback	5	1.8	unleaded	manual	manual	6	12,297	153	G	D	The same
Honda	Civic	hatchback	5	2.2	diesel	manual	manual	6	12,470	137	E	C	Pay less
Volkswagen	Golf	hatchback	5	1.6	unleaded	manual		6	12,890	160	G	D	The same
Toyota	Yaris	hatchback	5	1.3	unleaded	manual		5	13,190	140	E	C	Pay less
Honda	Cr-V	sport utility vehicle	5	2.2	diesel	manual	manual	6	13,262	173	I	E	Pay more

Make	Model	Body type	No of doors	Engine litres	Fuel type	Transmission type	Transmission description	No of speeds	2007 volume	Average CO_2	2009 band	Current band	Current band
Ford	Focus	hatchback	5	1.6	unleaded	manual	manual	5	13,457	156	G	D	The same
Honda	Jazz	hatchback	5	1.3	unleaded	manual	manual	5	13,595	137	E	C	Pay less
Fiat	Punto	hatchback	5	1.2	unleaded	manual	manual	5	14,039	140	E	C	Pay less
Ford	Focus	hatchback	5	1.8	unleaded	manual	manual	5	14,079	168	H	E	The same
Peugeot	207	hatchback	5	1.4	unleaded	manual	manual	5	15,016	152	G	D	The same
Mini	Mini	hatchback	3	1.6	unleaded	manual	manual	6	15,290	134	E	C	Pay less
Ford	Focus	hatchback	5	1.8	diesel	manual	manual	5	16,218	137	E	C	Pay less
Volkswagen	Golf	hatchback	5	1.9	diesel	manual	manual	5	17,541	131	E	C	Pay less
Vauxhall[1]	Corsa	hatchback	3	1.2	unleaded	manual		5	17,631	141	F	C	Pay less
Ford	Fiesta	hatchback	5	1.4	unleaded	manual	manual	5	17,891	147	F	C	Pay less
Vauxhall	Vectra	hatchback	5	1.8	unleaded	manual	manual	5	19,542	173	I	E	Pay more
Vauxhall	Zafira	mini MPV	5	1.6	unleaded	manual	manual	5	20,374	175	I	E	Pay more
Ford	Fiesta	hatchback	5	1.2	unleaded	manual	manual	5	21,450	142	F	C	Pay less
Ford	Focus	hatchback	5	1.6	unleaded	manual	manual	5	22,998	160	G	D	The same
Ford	Ka	mini car	3	1.3	unleaded	manual	manual	5	26,252	147	F	C	Pay less
Ford	Fiesta	hatchback	3	1.2	unleaded	manual	manual	5	29,248	142	F	C	Pay less

[1] We have assumed these are one model version due to lack of data over transmission

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Secretary's statement of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1474, on vehicle excise duty, what assumptions his Department made of the breakdown of annual carbon dioxide savings between 2010 to 2020 in making the forecast of a 1.3 million tonnes carbon dioxide emission saving by 2020. [207309]

Angela Eagle: The Government's current calculation is that the contribution made by VED to delivering the proposed EU regulation on new car CO_2 will amount to a cumulative total of around 1.3 million tonnes of CO_2 by 2020. This is an estimate produced from modelling based on an econometric study by Economics for the Environment Consultancy (EFTEC), published in December 2007.

Sequestration of Assets: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what amount of funds in the UK is frozen in accordance with Council Decision 2008/475/EC of 23 June 2008 concerning restrictive measures against Iran. [217310]

Kitty Ussher: All funds belonging to, owned, held or controlled by Bank Melli Iran and its subsidiaries and branches, including Melli Bank plc., in the UK are frozen in accordance with Council Decision 2008/475/EC of 23 June 2008. We do not provide details of individual entities' funds, whether they are natural or legal persons, as this would breach their confidentiality.

Sequestration of Assets: UN Resolutions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what amount of funds in the UK is frozen in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution *(a)* 1737 (2006), *(b)* 1747 (2007) and *(c)* 1803 (2008). [217311]

Kitty Ussher: All funds belonging to, owned, held or controlled by Bank Sepah Iran and Bank Sepah International plc, in the UK are frozen in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008). No other entities designated by these measures hold funds in the UK. We do not provide details of individual entities' funds, whether they are natural or legal persons, as this would breach their confidentiality.

Since the introduction of these measures, HM Treasury has licensed payments out of the frozen funds in accordance with the exemptions provided in the UN Security Council resolutions.

Social Security Benefits: Elderly

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated annual cost to the Exchequer was of people over 65 years of age being *(a)* on benefits and *(b)* drawing pensions in the last period for which figures are available. [213603]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Benefits paid by the Department for Work and Pensions in 2007-08 to people aged 65 and over were *(a)* £21.45 billion in benefits other than the state pension and *(b)* £51.16 billion for the state pension. Information on other costs to the Exchequer (administration costs) is not available.

Source:

Departmental Accounting and statistical data

Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million and are consistent with figures for expenditure directed at people over working age in table 5 of the expenditure tables available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

The difference is that the aforementioned figures exclude expenditure directed at people aged 60 to 64.

The figures relate to those benefits for which DWP has policy responsibility and therefore only cover Great

Britain (except for Over 75 TV Licences, included in the total at *(a)*, where the annual cost also covers Northern Ireland).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

African Union: Zimbabwe

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the African Union to recommend the suspension of Zimbabwe from that body. [215331]

Meg Munn: We will continue to talk to both the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community at both official and ministerial level about how best to resolve the situation, but ultimately it is a decision for the AU as to whether they decide to suspend Zimbabwe from the Union.

Caribbean Community: Montserrat

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has agreed to the request of the Chief Minister of Montserrat for the island's accession to the Caribbean community single market and economy. [215594]

Meg Munn: I wrote to the Chief Minister of Montserrat on 12 June 2008 responding to his Government's request to join the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy. Given the recognised internal capacity constraints in Montserrat, I explained that it would be more appropriate to focus on the key economic priorities identified in the new Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan, rather than prepare for the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy. The Sustainable Development Plan is more likely to support Montserrat's aim of economic self-sufficiency. I suggested to the Chief Minister that the Government of Montserrat defer the question of accession for two years or until such time as levels of economic activity and capacity are sufficiently enhanced to enable Montserrat to be able to take full advantage of the benefits of membership. I also offered to discuss these issues in more detail with Chief Minister Lewis when he visits London for the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in October.

China: Olympic Games

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese Government on restrictions imposed on Tibetans during the parade of the Olympic torch in Lhasa. [215503]

Meg Munn: We are aware that the Olympic torch passed through Lhasa on 21 June. While the passage of the Olympic torch through any country is a matter for the authorities there, we have made clear to the Chinese authorities our view that people should be able to express their political and religious views peacefully.

We have discussed the issue of Tibet with the Chinese Government at the highest levels since the unrest there in March, including when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Chinese Foreign Minister on 12 June in Paris.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* new capital investment in and *(b)* refurbishment of departmental property in (i) each UK overseas post and (ii) the UK since 2002. [216308]

David Miliband: Details of the total capital investment including major refurbishment on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) estate are listed in the annual Departmental Report.

The following table lists the figures published in previous Departmental Reports for investment in the estate for financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07. Figures for financial year 2007-08 will be published in the 2008-09 Departmental Report.

Budgets for minor refurbishment to our overseas estate are devolved to posts. As this information is not held centrally, the FCO would incur a disproportionate cost in providing figures for expenditure on capital investment and refurbishment by posts.

£ million

Financial year	*UK*	*Overseas*
2002-03	0.7	50
2003-04	2.7	45
2004-05	2.3	58
2005-06	7.8	71.5
2006-07	21	63.1

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215572]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates a corporate pool, which comprises staff without a permanent position, staff on maternity leave and staff on long-term sick leave. All staff in the corporate pool, other than those on maternity leave and long-term sick leave, are available for temporary deployment in the UK. They can also be deployed overseas to assist, for example, with consular support following natural disasters or emergencies.

On 1 June 2008 there were 212 staff (4.1 per cent. of the UK civil servants in the FCO) in the corporate pool. All but 11 of these staff were temporarily deployed filling short-term vacancies or working on corporate projects.

The FCO does not use the term "people action team".

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 216W, on Departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received by senior civil servants in his Department in 2007 to be published. [215254]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave to him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215233]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid the amounts shown as follows to special advisers in reimbursable expenses in the calendar years 2005 to 2008. We do not hold in our central records details of expense claims submitted before 2005.

	Amounts paid to special advisors (£)
2005	388.36
2006	24,198.00
2007	12,002.00
2008 (to date)	176.00

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [215536]

Meg Munn: In the UK, the following planning applications have been made in the last 24 months:

adaptations to the entrance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) main building, King Charles Street;

façade works to both the main building and the Old Admiralty Building;

alterations to the third floor of the Old Admiralty Building; and

works to the first floor heating at Lancaster House.

In addition, a number of planning applications have been submitted by agents/contractors acting on our behalf, both in the UK and overseas. To report on each of these applications would require making enquiries with all of our agents/contractors and would incur a disproportionate cost.

In the UK, the FCO has made four licence applications in the last 24 months: one each year for the main building and our Hanslope Park site. License applications overseas are not held centrally and would incur a disproportionate cost to compile.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on departmental public expenditure, what net effect foreign exchange movements had on his Department's budget in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. [216294]

David Miliband: Adjustments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) budget to take account of the net effect of foreign exchange rate movements and overseas inflation—overseas price mechanism (OPM)—are made in supplementary estimates and are set out in the following table:

OPM adjustment (£000)

FCO	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Resource	7,425	-9,544	-2,218	-12,142	-2,963	-16,448	-14,992
Capital	828	-585	9	-411	360	-318	-282
British Council	2,037	-2,206	-565	-1,557	1,407	821	1,359

Note:

Negative figures in table indicate that the FCO returned money to the Reserve

Because of the timing of the Spring Supplementary Estimates, they can only take account of changes known as at December in the year concerned. Exchange rate and inflation changes for the rest of that financial year are accounted for in the following year's estimate. For that reason the figures above correspond more closely to the impact of OPM in the calendar, rather than financial, year. The FCO calculates that the effect of exchange rate changes and inflation on the FCO budget since the last Spring Supplementary Estimate is £28.9 million of which £22 million is due to exchange rate effects.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215649]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information centrally and to respond would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215467]

Meg Munn: The following table shows the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's ordinary written and named day parliamentary questions statistics in each of the last three years:

	Ordinary written parliamentary questions answered within five parliamentary sitting days		*Named day written parliamentary questions answered on the named day*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	2,334 out of 3,311	70	553 out of 672	82
2005-06	2,527 out of 3,136	81	544 out of 701	78
2004-05	1,760 out of 2,704	65	362 out of 574	63

Embassies: Foreign Workers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK missions overseas are run by locally-engaged staff. [216303]

David Miliband: The following missions are run by locally-engaged staff:

Country	*Mission*
Australia	Brisbane
Australia	Perth
Bangladesh	Sylhet
Brazil	Porto alegre
Brazil	Recife
Canada	Calgary
France	Bordeaux
France	Lyon
France	Marseille
Greece	Corfu
Greece	Heraklion
Greece	Salonika
Haiti	Port-au-Prince
India	Ahmedabad
India	Chandigarh
India	Goa
India	Hyderabad
India	Pune
Italy	Florence
Italy	Naples
Mali	Bamako
Mexico	Guadalajara
Mexico	Tijuana
Mexico	Cancun
Morocco	Tangier
New Zealand	Auckland
Niger	Niamey
Nigeria	Kaduna
Nigeria	Port Harcourt
Pakistan	Lahore
Portugal	Portimoa
South Africa	Durban
Spain	Alicante
Spain	Bilbao
Spain	Ibiza
Spain	Las Palmas
Spain	Malaga
Spain	Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Spain	Palma
St. Vincent	Kingstown
Syria	Aleppo
Togo	Lome
Turkey	Antalya
Turkey	Izmir
USA	Orlando
USA	Seattle

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which foreign language training providers are providing language training services to his Department under framework agreements. [216302]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has signed a framework agreement with 15 foreign language training providers shown as follows:

Ana Lazarevic;
Communicaid;
European Business School London;
Farnham Castle Language Group;
Gateway;
Institut Francais;
King's College London;
L2 Language and Cultural Services;
Language Services Direct;
Language Studies International;
London School of Economics;
Linguarama;
Rainbow Language in Business;
School of Oriental and African Studies; and
World Language Consultants.

As at 1 July 2008, the 11 suppliers currently providing language training are:

Ana Lazarevic;
Communicaid;
Gateway;
Institut Francais;
King's College London;
L2 Language and Cultural Services;
Language Services Direct;
Linguarama;
Rainbow Language in Business;
School of Oriental and African Studies; and
World Language Consultants.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from Gaza since 19th June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [216199]

Meg Munn: We have received reports that ten home-made rockets and mortar shells have been fired into Israeli territory from Gaza since 19 June.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the ceasefire that began on 19 June and commended the role Egypt played in getting this to happen. We urge all parties to abide by the commitments they have made. Palestinian militant groups must stop firing rockets into Israel and the Israeli government should ensure that important humanitarian aid and supplies can get through to Gaza.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make it their policy to seek the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Mission to the Western Sahara and the refugee camps in Tindouf, with particular reference to the monitoring of the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the refugee camps. [216271]

Meg Munn: The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) visited the region in 2006 to gather information on the human rights situation. The OHCHR shared its report privately with Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario on 8 September 2006 but, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed between the parties, did not publish it. I understand the OHCHR maintains its decision not to make the report public, and the UK respects this decision.

The UK is concerned that the conflict in Western Sahara remains unresolved and the impact on the humanitarian situation in the region. We are keen to see a resolution to the situation in Western Sahara. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We support the process of UN-chaired negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario currently under way. Success in these negotiations depends upon building greater confidence between the parties. In this respect, the UK remains open to supporting UN human rights monitoring in Western Sahara if it can be shown to enhance rather than obstruct the mutual confidence of the parties.

Zimbabwe: Sequestration of Assets

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of freezing Zimbabwean assets on Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [215409]

Meg Munn: There is no legal authority for a blanket freeze of all Zimbabwean assets in the UK but we are looking at a range of targeted options which impact on those specifically responsible for the crisis in Zimbabwe. This could include extending the existing EU targeted measures which have already frozen the bank accounts and prevented the travel to the EU of 131 named regime members. In considering these options we shall take full account of the likely impact of any new measures on ordinary Zimbabweans.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Amusement Arcades: Coastal Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the economic effect on seaside arcades of B3 machine entitlement. [215872]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My written statement of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, set out the Government's response to representations from sectors of the gambling industry seeking changes to the regulatory regime for gaming machines in arcades and bingo halls. My statement confirmed that the Government are taking steps to help premises such as seaside arcades by bringing forward to this year the review of category C and D gaming machine stake and prize limits.

Category B3 gaming machines are high stake, high prize gaming machines with a maximum prize of £500. Only arcades to which children do not have access — termed adult gaming centres in the legislation — are permitted to offer such machines. Seaside arcades to which children have access, termed family entertainment centres, are not permitted category B3 gaming machines, only category C and D machines.

Brass Bands: Finance

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial support his Department provides to brass bands associated with former coal fields. [210233]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's funding for the arts in general, and brass bands in particular, is channelled through Arts Council England. In the last five years, the Arts Council has provided lottery funding for activities or projects that involve brass and silver bands as set out in the following table. This funding is not monitored by whether the band is associated with former coal fields.

£

	Activities or projects that involve brass or silver bands — to some extent	*Activities or projects that predominantly or wholly involve brass or silver bands*	*Total*
2003-04	39,315	35,860	75,175
2004-05	78,958	60,521	139,479
2005-06	72,214	23,687	95,901
2006-07	21,890	67,410	89,300
2007-08	10,432	13,930	24,362
Total	222,809	201,408	424,217

In addition, Youth Music (which distributes lottery funds on behalf of the Arts Council) has provided financial support to the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain as set out in the following table:

National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain

	£
2003-04	100,000
2004-05	110,000
2005-06	120,000
2006-07	120,000
2007-08	123,000
Total	573,000

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many freedom of information requests his Department received in each of the last three years; and in how many the information requested was *(a)* given within 20 working days, *(b)* given after more than 20 working days, *(c)* given in part within 20 working days, *(d)* given in part after more than 20 working days and *(e)* refused. [216523]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Statistics relating to the handling of information requests received in 2007 by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), are contained in the

Ministry of Justice Third Annual Report on the operation of the FOI Act in Central Government 2007, published on 18 June 2008.

The report can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-report-2007-final-web.pdf

The Ministry of Justice website contains links to similar published statistics for 2006 and 2005. These can be found respectively at (in relation to 2006):

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf

and (in relation to 2005):

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/imprep/annrep05.pdf

In addition, the Ministry of Justice publishes a quarterly statistical bulletin on the implementation in central Government of the FOI Act 2000. The latest report for Q1 (January-March) 2008 was published on 30 June 2008. This also contains some historical data of some of the key statistics on a quarterly basis since 1 January 2006. The latest quarterly report can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/quarterly-stats-jan-mar-08.pdf

The reports cover the implementation and operation of the Act in central Government. Statistical releases cover for each Department the numbers of requests received, timeliness of response, outcomes of requests, and usage of the Act's appeal processes. The annual reports draw together the quarterly statistics for one year and analyses the longer term trends.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average pay per hour worked by *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by pay band. [212494]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is shown in the table.

£

	DCMS staff	*Agency staff*
SCS pay band 3	70.40	
SCS pay band 2 (includes 1a)	46.20	
SCS pay band 1	29.60	
Grade A upper	25.32	
Grade A lower	21.29	
Grade B	14.54	18.47
Grade C	10.74	14.45
Grade D	8.78	10.18

The average hourly rate for DCMS staff in the table has been calculated by taking the basic salary, dividing it by 52 and dividing by the gross conditioned hours (41). It does not include ERNIC and pension costs.

The average hourly rates for agency staff have been calculated from the rates provided by the two main agencies used, the rates will include an allowance for the agencies' overheads and profit.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211857]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table.

1 April to 31 March	*Salary costs (£)*
2003-04	214,581
2004-05	204,304
2005-06	255,571
2006-07	215,607
2007-08	159,011

The information provided shows the salary costs and excludes employers' pension and national insurance contributions. These and other related information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214646]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, *Officials Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Costs for overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997 to 1999 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214891]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214892]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold the management information required to answer this question.

Reaching Communities Scheme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been provided from the Reaching Communities Scheme in each constituency. [213452]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has supplied the following data on the funding provided to each constituency by the Reaching Communities programme.

Locational data are recorded by applicant post code and do not necessarily reflect the actual location of the project.

Reaching Communities England—Grants by constituency

MP Constituency	*Value (£)*	*Number of awards*
Altrincham and Sale West	360,911	1
Amber Valley	305,807	2
Arundel and South Downs	36,808	1
Ashfield	589,915	4
Ashford	151,400	1
Ashton under Lyne	932,468	4
Barnsley Central	615,244	3
Barnsley East and Mexborough	369,546	2
Barnsley West and Penistone	362,857	4
Barrow and Furness	417,733	2
Basildon	844,785	4
Basingstoke	497,621	1
Bassetlaw	1,170,932	4
Battersea	847,151	3
Bedford	481,077	4
Belfast North	494,751	2
Belfast South	3,009,828	7
Belfast West	213,159	1
Berwick-upon-Tweed	561,622	3
Bethnal Green and Bow	2,193,667	8
Billericay	283,591	1
Birkenhead	813,307	3
Birmingham, Edgbaston	693,804	3
Birmingham, Erdington	376,109	1
Birmingham, Hall Green	124,181	1
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	47,000	1
Birmingham, Ladywood	2,917,845	9
Birmingham, Perry Barr	723,401	2
Birmingham, Selly Oak	430,668	3
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	819,060	4
Birmingham, Yardley	115,550	1
Bishop Auckland	318,604	2
Blackburn	968,878	3
Blackpool South	416,221	1
Blyth Valley	151,037	3
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	94,962	1
Bolsover	476,523	1
Bolton North East	975,145	3
Bolton South East	26,237	1
Bootle	871,570	3
Boston and Skegness	227,870	1
Bosworth	421,647	4
Bournemouth East	250,552	2
Bournemouth West	52,270	1
Bracknell	295,608	2
Bradford North	1,066,904	4
Bradford South	187,870	1
Bradford West	1,106,253	5
Braintree	30,000	1
Brent East	949,329	4
Brent North	251,372	1
Brent South	880,425	4
Brentford and Isleworth	318,878	2
Bridgwater	619,581	3
Brigg and Goole	948,096	3
Brighton, Kemptown	474,125	3
Brighton, Pavilion	1,874,701	7
Bristol East	1,054,240	5
Bristol North West	358,642	3
Bristol West	1,308,400	5
Bromley and Chislehurst	50,000	1
Bromsgrove	180,000	7
Broxbourne	387,723	2
Broxtowe	107,676	1
Buckingham	48,000	1
Burnley	1,334,829	5
Burton	819,994	3
Bury St. Edmunds	203,016	2
Camberwell and Peckham	424,533	3
Cambridge	1,171,313	7
Cannock Chase	360,532	3
Canterbury	1,111,582	5
Carlisle	666,720	3
Carshalton and Wallington	347,796	3
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	516,348	2
Charnwood	39,300	1
Chatham and Aylesford	347,225	1
Chesterfield	1,071,387	3
Chichester	713,331	4
Chorley	938,032	5
Cities of London and Westminster	1,985,149	10
City of Chester	33,779	1
City of Durham	57,846	2
City of York	785,584	3
Colchester	690,297	5
Colne Valley	439,513	2
Copeland	849,411	3
Corby	661,948	2
Cotswold	252,712	2
Coventry South	1,613,796	6
Crawley	156,001	1
Crewe and Nantwich	562,864	3
Croydon Central	261,676	2
Dagenham	387,194	2
Darlington	158,215	1
Dartford	445,572	2
Daventry	71,761	2
Denton and Reddish	405,460	1
Derby North	218,994	1
Derby South	1,489,805	5
Devizes	326,130	4
Dewsbury	625,203	2
Don Valley	65,215	1
Doncaster Central	1,110,457	6
Doncaster North	615,340	2
Dover	381,047	2
Dudley North	423,223	3
Dudley South	385,450	2
Dulwich and West Norwood	365,534	2
Ealing North	115,490	2
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	383,135	1
Ealing, Southall	335,892	3
Easington	1,384,268	7
East Devon	337,379	1
East Ham	1,318,926	3
East Hampshire	85,480	1
East Londonderry	934,785	2
East Worthing and Shoreham	51,040	1
East Yorkshire	50,923	1
Eastbourne	77,178	2
Eastleigh	387,857	1
Eccles	370,801	2
Eddisbury	574,047	3
Edmonton	741,215	2
Elmet	239,660	2
Eltham	185,569	2
Enfield North	370,099	1

Reaching Communities England—Grants by constituency

MP Constituency	*Value (£)*	*Number of awards*
Epsom and Ewell	163,645	2
Esher and Walton	14,632	1
Exeter	588,502	3
Falmouth and Camborne	81,845	2
Fareham	482,659	2
Faversham and Mid Kent	812,882	3
Feltham and Heston	263,859	1
Finchley and Golders Green	680,341	2
Folkestone and Hythe	86,951	1
Forest of Dean	20,256	1
Foyle	491,926	1
Gainsborough	50,000	1
Gateshead East and Washington West	130,130	1
Gillingham	153,116	1
Gloucester	70,000	1
Gosport	183,856	2
Grantham and Stamford	50,000	1
Gravesham	731,284	2
Great Grimsby	281,101	2
Great Yarmouth	362,704	2
Greenwich and Woolwich	1,599,282	9
Guildford	799,345	1
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	211,769	3
Hackney South and Shoreditch	1,626,213	7
Halton	1,483,579	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,973,230	5
Hampstead and Highgate	307,449	1
Harborough	270,000	1
Harlow	706,950	4
Hartlepool	809,974	4
Harwich	222,370	2
Hastings and Rye	362,000	1
Havant	367,157	2
Hayes and Harlington	280,480	2
Hazel Grove	542,858	2
Hemel Hempstead	37,730	1
Hendon	218,795	1
Hereford	153,168	1
Hertford and Stortford	150,681	1
Hexham	84,280	1
Heywood and Middleton	25,000	1
High Peak	377,513	2
Holborn and St. Pancras	1,591,473	7
Hornsey and Wood Green	585,087	2
Houghton and Washington East	355,050	1
Hove	834,446	3
Huddersfield	925,009	3
Hyndburn	1,903,493	6
Ilford North	905,965	3
Ilford South	894,576	4
Ipswich	315,911	1
Isle of Wight	806,679	3
Islington North	1,589,821	8
Islington South and Finsbury	5,873,322	19
Keighley	211,992	2
Kensington and Chelsea	186,313	2
Kettering	758,231	2
Kingston and Surbiton	781,276	3
Kingston upon Hull East	547,924	2
Kingston upon Hull North	1,192,674	3
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	544,403	2
Kingswood	467,671	2
Knowsley North and Sefton East	177,055	1
Knowsley South	1,192,170	3
Lancaster and Wyre	285,777	1
Leeds Central	1,231,182	9
Leeds East	248,058	1
Leeds North East	1,753,071	6
Leeds North West	189,987	1
Leeds West	354,693	2
Leicester South	799,512	4
Leicester West	1,121,052	3
Leominster	664,190	3
Lewes	850,661	3
Lewisham East	74,376	1
Lewisham West	287,866	2
Lewisham, Deptford	978,851	6
Leyton and Wanstead	743,383	2
Lichfield	117,570	1
Lincoln	1,212,420	5
Liverpool, Riverside	3,848,168	14
Liverpool, Walton	487,931	1
Liverpool, Wavertree	83,596	1
Loughborough	233,812	2
Ludlow	363,418	2
Luton South	484,115	1
Maldon and East Chelmsford	125,460	1
Manchester, Central	3,852,891	13
Manchester, Gorton	529,800	2
Manchester, Withington	138,115	1
Mansfield	517,905	3
Medway	299,975	2
Meriden	600,938	3
Middlesbrough	680,093	7
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	570,271	2
Mole Valley	404,874	1
Morecambe and Lunesdale	35,000	1
Morley and Rothwell	30,000	1
New Forest West	480,435	2
Newark	472,688	1
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	1,611,887	7
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	52,944	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	254,850	1
Normanton	234,723	2
North Cornwall	98,000	2
North Devon	480,464	3
North Dorset	204,143	1
North Durham	688,881	4
North East Bedfordshire	25,000	1
North East Cambridgeshire	157,594	1
North East Hampshire	41,925	1
North East Hertfordshire	172,963	2
North Norfolk	596,362	2
North Shropshire	614,261	2
North Southwark and Bermondsey	3,097,342	11
North Thanet	210,935	1
North Tyneside	580,128	3
North Warwickshire	458,448	3
North West Durham	293,991	1
North West Hampshire	131,243	1
North West Leicestershire	83,589	1
North West Norfolk	482,019	1
North Wiltshire	478,660	3
Northampton South	184,867	1

Reaching Communities England—Grants by constituency

MP Constituency	*Value (£)*	*Number of awards*
Norwich South	623,779	2
Nottingham East	789,416	3
Nottingham South	1,757,521	6
Nuneaton	278,438	1
Old Bexley and Sidcup	165,867	1
Oldham West and Royton	1,244,004	4
Oxford East	1,071,118	5
Oxford West and Abingdon	743,160	2
Pendle	816,820	4
Penrith and The Border	169,867	2
Peterborough	690,381	3
Plymouth, Devonport	233,466	1
Plymouth, Sutton	892,963	2
Poole	412,191	2
Poplar and Canning Town	628,768	3
Portsmouth North	182,230	1
Portsmouth South	327,276	3
Preston	2,140,312	6
Pudsey	37,607	1
Reading East	301,502	2
Redcar	811,633	3
Redditch	462,259	1
Regent's Park and Kensington North	553,944	4
Richmond (Yorks)	549,747	4
Richmond Park	362,375	3
Rochdale	796,739	4
Rochford and Southend East	688,727	5
Romford	561,981	3
Rossendale and Darwen	545,198	2
Rotherham	766,873	4
Ruislip-Northwood Rushcliffe	520,285	2
Rutland and Melton	98,172	2
Ryedale	100,265	1
Salisbury	203,092	4
Scarborough and Whitby	584,475	4
Scunthorpe	197,002	1
Selby	445,860	1
Sheffield Central	979,448	6
Sheffield, Attercliffe	936,388	2
Sheffield, Brightside	588,599	4
Sherwood	1,165,721	6
Shipley	246,042	2
Shrewsbury and Atcham	270,732	1
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	74,000	1
Skipton and Ripon	48,612	2
Slough	1,062,159	4
Solihull	376,365	2
South Cambridgeshire	131,300	1
South Dorset	30,100	1
South East Cambridgeshire	195,259	1
South Holland and The Deepings	282,896	1
South Ribble	205,212	1
South Shields	1,020,914	3
South Swindon	609,202	3
South West Bedfordshire	50,000	1
South West Norfolk	97,626	2
Southampton, Itchen	733,440	3
Southampton, Test	516,538	3
Southend West	486,097	1
Southport	401,151	1
St. Albans	340,087	1
St. Helens South	1,000,366	4
St. Ives	588,351	6
Stafford	321,723	1
Stevenage	162,345	1
Stockport	706,070	2
Stockton North	90,182	1
Stockton South	963,188	5
Stoke-on-Trent Central	1,485,144	5
Stoke-on-Trent North	475,209	2
Stoke-on-Trent South	375,589	1
Stone	486,066	1
Streatham	395,737	2
Stretford and Urmston	364,881	2
Stroud	162,398	2
Suffolk Coastal	76,945	1
Sunderland North	954,886	3
Sunderland South	114,854	1
Sutton and Cheam	382,055	1
Sutton Coldfield	454,843	2
Tamworth	676,316	1
Taunton	325,000	1
Teignbridge	155,560	1
Telford	324,131	2
Tewkesbury	298,683	2
Thurrock	740,488	2
Tiverton and Honiton	122,276	2
Tonbridge and Malling	249,686	2
Tooting	597,493	2
Torridge and West Devon	254,008	6
Totnes	305,418	1
Tottenham	1,011,138	5
Truro and St. Austell	554,817	3
Twickenham	798,078	1
Tyne Bridge	1,035,319	5
Tynemouth	429,805	1
Upper Bann	469,115	1
Uxbridge	36,196	1
Vale of York	150,000	1
Vauxhall	1,227,125	4
Wakefield	970,187	1
Wallasey	144,201	1
Walsall North	61,000	1
Walsall South	1,039,958	1
Walthamstow	876,001	3
Wansbeck	506,286	2
Wantage	204,559	1
Warley	376,614	1
Warrington North	70,246	1
Warrington South	499,186	1
Warwick and Leamington	515,355	2
Waveney	172,446	1
Wealden	101,151	1
Weaver Vale	652,221	2
Wellingborough	100,489	2
Wells	98,013	2
Welwyn Hatfield	331,864	2
Wentworth	255,190	2
West Bromwich West	1,527,561	7
West Chelmsford	386,257	4
West Derbyshire	494,157	3
West Dorset	99,293	1
West Ham	1,268,507	5
West Lancashire	1,060,580	3
West Suffolk	65,736	1
West Worcestershire	105,834	2
Westbury	125,562	1

Reaching Communities England—Grants by constituency

MP Constituency	*Value (£)*	*Number of awards*
Westmorland and Lonsdale	377,404	2
Weston-Super-Mare	636,493	3
Wigan	565,933	2
Wimbledon	91,438	1
Windsor	210,000	1
Witney	213,804	1
Wokingham	532,056	3
Wolverhampton North East	320,843	1
Wolverhampton South East	974,641	2
Wolverhampton South West	537,965	2
Woodspring	264,724	2
Worcester	161,704	1
Workington	495,681	3
Worsley	494,425	1
Worthing West	316,544	1
Wyre Forest	421,345	2
Yeovil	491,428	4
Not known[1]	1,555,880	6

[1] Six awards for constituencies were their location has not been recorded.

Source:

Big Lottery Fund

Sport Action Zone Sub-Committee

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions the Sport Action Zone Sub-Committee has met since its establishment; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each of its last three meetings. [213784]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Sport Action Zone Sub-Committee is a matter for Sport England.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects aimed at *(a)* ethnic communities, *(b)* disabled communities and *(c)* women and girls have received funding from Sport England's Community Projects Revenue Fund since 1999. [212992]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that from 2005-06 to 2007-08 the public service agreement for sport was to increase participation in sport by 3 per cent. by priority groups including ethnic minorities, disabled people and women.

To support increases in participation by ethnic minorities Sport England has, in the last three years provided a total of £1,014,829 funding for Sporting Equals.

To support increases in participation by disabled people, Sport England provided £4,111,399 to the English Federation of Disability Sport between 2005 and 2008, and have invested approximately £8,000,000 in the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) which is a gym based project to ensure disabled people can take part in gym based exercise.

To support increases in participation by women and girls Sport England will provide £1.6 million funding for the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation between 2005 and 2009.

In order to receive funding from 2009-11, national governing bodies of sport will be required to develop plans for increasing participation by ethnic communities, disabled communities and, women and girls' participation in sport.

Swimming: London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 884W, on swimming: London, with which London boroughs his Department's proposals for free swimming were discussed before the policy was announced. [217030]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prior to the announcement, my Department had individual discussions on the proposals for the free swimming offer with the London borough of Newham.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214696]

Mr. Thomas: I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Information requested for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to obtain such information would lead to disproportionate costs.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 7 July 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The lease of the building in which Companies House's Edinburgh office is based is due for renewal in March 2009.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Services in respect of your question (2007/3199) on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years.

Please see table below for the leases due for renewal in the next four years.

Location	*Address*	*Lease expiry*
Blackpool	Newfield House, Ground Floor, Vicarage Lane, Blackpool FY4 4WB	December 2008
Swansea	Sun Alliance House, 2nd Floor, 166/167 St Helens Road, Swansea, SA1 5DI	March 2009
Bristol	100 Victoria Street, 4th floor, Bristol, BS1 1BD	September 2009
Birmingham RP	Cobalt Square, 6th Floor, Hagley Road Edgbaston, Birmingham, B2 4QG	September 2009
Chester	Windsor House, Pepper Street, Chester, CH1 1DE	October 2010
Stockton	St. Marks House, St. Marks Court, Thornaby Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6QT	April 2010
Manchester	Boulton House, 1st Floor, 17-21 Chorlton Street, Manchester, M1 3HY	November 2011
Manchester	Boulton House, 7th Floor, 17-21 Chorlton Street, Manchester, M1 3HY	November 2011
Northampton	Sol House, 1st Floor, 29 St. Katherine's Street, Northampton, NN1 2QZ	December 2011

Location	*Address*	*Lease expiry*
Southend	Central House, Part 4th Floor, Clifftown Road, Southend, SS1 1AB	February 2012
Cambridge	Abbeygate House, 2nd and Part 1st Floor, 164-167 East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1DB	March 2012
Nottingham	The Frontage, 4th Floor, Block A, Queen Street, Nottingham, NG1 2BL	December 2012

Energy: Prices

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the scale of regional price differentials in domestic gas and electricity prices; and if he will make a statement. [216943]

Malcolm Wicks: Regional price differentials in domestic electricity and gas prices are published quarterly in tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 respectively of Quarterly Energy Prices, available online at:

> http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

A copy of this is also available from the Libraries of the House.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what data the Export Credits Guarantee Department collects on greenhouse gas emissions arising from high and medium impact projects which it supports. [214569]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's policy is to require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for each project for which it receives an application for support and which its initial screening has identified as having high potential impacts. For any such project with significant greenhouse gas emissions, ECGD expects the EIA to contain details of the direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the project. This includes details of emissions relating to the generation of heat and power used by the project.

Where ECGD's initial screening has judged the project to have medium potential impacts, applicants are required to complete an impact questionnaire, which asks for quantification of emissions of greenhouse gases.

Where an application relates to export insurance or where the value of the goods or services to be exported is very low in comparison to the total project cost, this information may not be available to the applicant. In these circumstances, for projects that it expects to have significant greenhouse gas emissions, ECGD estimates the emission quantities based on other sources of data.

Flexible Working

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of employees taking flexible working in the 15 per cent. of local authorities with the highest unemployment; [213480]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of employees taking flexible working in each Government Office region; [213483]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of businesses offering flexible working in the 15 per cent. of local authorities with the highest unemployment; [213484]

(4) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of businesses offering flexible working in each Government Office region. [213485]

Mr. McFadden: Data gathered to assess the impact of the right to request flexible working legislation show that nationally 91 per cent. of workplaces who received requests in the last year approved all requests[1] and that 94 per cent. of all requests from working parents are agreed[2].

Furthermore evidence also shows that 92 per cent. of employers consider requests from any employee[3] and 56 per cent. of employees (14 million employees) work flexibly, or have done so within the last 12 months[4].

The Department does not hold the specific information requested but the Third Work Life Balance Employers' Survey (2007) provides the following data at Government office regional level:

GO-region	*Percentage of workplaces receiving requests to work flexibly*
North East	43
North West	49
Yorkshire and Humber	39
East Midlands	49
West Midlands	43
South West	47
Eastern	27
London	41
South East	39
Wales	26
Scotland	37

The Department does not hold information on the right to request flexible working at below regional level.

Currently over 6 million employees have the right to request flexible working. This will increase to over 10 million employees once the right to request is extended to parents of children aged 16 and under.

[1] Third Work Life Balance Employers' Survey 2007

[2] CBI Employment Trends Survey 2007

[3] Third Work Life Balance Employers' Survey 2007

[4] Third Work Life Balance Employees' Survey 2006

Internet: Standards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions Ofcom has required a broadband provider to issue a Migration Authorisation Code and not secured compliance in the last 12 months. [214443]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Manufacturing Industries: Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on support for the UK furniture industry. [215675]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no recent discussions between the Department and the European Commission on support for the UK furniture industry.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the EU Trade Commissioner on support for the UK furniture industry. [215677]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no recent discussions between the Department and the EU Trade Commissioner on support for the UK furniture industry.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department has provided to the furniture industry which meets the criteria of the EU Structural Funds Priority Status in the last three years. [215723]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the rules that govern the structural funds there is no such concept as priority status so it is not a criteria that can be met. In addition, the Department does not provide support through the structural funds. The funds are delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government in England and by the devolved administrations on their territories.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's assessment is of the effect of banding of the renewables obligation on the take-up of *(a)* micro wind and *(b)* solar photovoltaics from April 2009. [212349]

Malcolm Wicks: Element Energy produced a report on 2 June 2008, which was jointly commissioned by my Department and others. The report predicted growth in *(a)* micro wind from 1,100 installations in 2007 to 7,400 in 2020 and *(b)* solar photovoltaics from 2,300 installations to 6,100 in 2020, on a baseline of two ROCs per MWH. We will be consulting on what more can be done to encourage micro-generation as part of the Renewable Energy Strategy we will be publishing shortly.

National Grid

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the robustness of the national grid in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the London area. [210070]

Malcolm Wicks: Electrical Inspectors in my Department monitor the performance of electricity transmission and distribution companies by receiving and assessing reports of major power failures.

(a) Historically the reliability of transmission networks is very high. In 2006-07 the overall reliability of supply of the GB system was 99.99985 per cent.

(b) Consumers in London enjoy the most secure electricity supplies in the country. In 2006-07 the average customer minutes lost per 100 customers was 43.0 in the London distribution network, compared to the national average of 72.4.

Nuclear Power Stations: Foreign Companies

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on foreign ownership of new nuclear power stations built in the UK. [216073]

Malcolm Wicks: A number of UK energy companies are already owned by non-UK companies. However, regardless of the nationality of the owners of energy companies operating in the UK, they are subject to the same licence conditions as UK owned energy companies. This will be the case with the owners, foreign or otherwise, of newly built nuclear power stations, along with the stringent safety and operating conditions that apply to all nuclear generation. Foreign owners of UK energy companies also pay the same rates of tax as UK companies and there is no evidence that overseas involvement in our energy sector has led to a situation that has given us security of supply concerns.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices closed in each parliamentary constituency in each year between 1997-98 and 2007-08. [215259]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Postal Services: EC Law

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of EU Directives *(a)* 96/67/EC and *(b)* 2002/39/EC on the operation of the Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [215069]

Mr. McFadden: European Postal Services Directives 97/67/EC and 2002.39.EC do not cover the provision of post offices or the provision of services through them. Decisions relating to such matters are the responsibility of individual member states. It remains the UK Government's priority to maintain a national Post Office network with national coverage.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many transport plans for the movement of nuclear materials have been approved by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security. [216816]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 23 September 2003, when the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 came into force, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security has approved 12 transport security plans for the transport of Category I/II nuclear material.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice he has received from *(a)* the National Audit Office, *(b)* the Carbon Trust and *(c)* Ofegm on the cost-effectiveness of the renewables obligation. [212364]

Malcolm Wicks: All three bodies have published documents on the cost effectiveness of the renewables obligation.

The National Audit office published a report on the renewables obligation on 11 February 2005

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/04-05/0405210.pdf.

The Carbon Trust published a report on 6 July 2006

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications/publicationdetail.htm?productid=CTC611

Most recently Ofgem published a response to a Government consultation on the renewables obligation on 22 January 2007

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environmnt/Policy/Documents1/16669-ROrespJan.pdf.

Sellafield

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1014, on Sellafield, what factors he will take into account when assessing the recommendation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on who should be the new parent body organisation for the Sellafield Site Licence Company. [217111]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is conducting the Sellafield parent body organisation competition under the EU competitive dialogue procedure, under which it is mandatory that they seek to identify the most economically advantageous tender using objective evaluation criteria agreed in advance with the bidders. Performances against those criteria are the only factors that can be taken into account. Any departure from the declared evaluation criteria would invalidate the competition process. Ministers have no part in the evaluation process.

Small Businesses: Rural Areas

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of each report commissioned by his Department which has examined the impact of small shop closures on rural communities in the last 10 years. [213627]

Malcolm Wicks: No research has been commissioned by the Department on this subject in the last 10 years.

Tribunals: Employment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps can be taken against those who do not abide by recommendations made by employment tribunals. [214803]

Mr. McFadden: Where an employment tribunal makes a recommendation to a respondent, and the respondent does not act upon it, the tribunal can increase the compensation award made to the claimant or order the respondent to pay compensation if it did not make such an order earlier.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to making the recommendations of employment tribunals binding. [214804]

Mr. McFadden: In employment tribunal cases where discrimination has been proven, in addition to making an order for compensation for loss or damage suffered by the claimant, the tribunal can make recommendations to the respondent aimed at improving the respondent's practices as they affect the claimant in the workplace. Such recommendations are not binding, though a tribunal can increase the claimant's compensation award if the respondent does not comply with them, or order the respondent to pay compensation if such an order had not been made before. We do not believe they should become binding. Compensation awards are, of course, binding and enforceable.

The Government intend to broaden these recommendation powers to enable a tribunal to make recommendations, where discriminatory practice has been proved, which would benefit others as well as the claimant. This will enable recommendations about the respondent's practices to be made in situations where the claimant is no longer employed by the respondent (which is not currently possible), in order that current employees can benefit. My Department is currently consulting about the implementation of this.

Utilities: Billing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with BT and other utility companies on surcharges for customers who choose not to pay bills by direct debit. [212640]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2008]*: Departmental officials have regular meetings with BT at which a variety of issues are discussed, including consumer concerns which have been raised with us. In response to public concern, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) has examined regulatory concerns about communications' providers additional charges and draft guidance was published on 28 February 2008. Ofcom expects to produce guidance in the autumn and once finalised, it is proposing to give providers three months to comply. Ofcom will then start an enforcement programme.

In respect of gas and electricity, suppliers offer discounts to customers who use payment methods that are cheaper for the supplier to administer, including online and direct debit.

Wind Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much renewables obligation subsidy went to *(a)* onshore and *(b)* offshore wind farms in 2006-07. [212366]

Malcolm Wicks: The renewables obligation is not a direct subsidy but is an incentive on suppliers to source renewable energy. For the obligation period 2006-07, Ofgem issued 4,208,975 ROCs for onshore wind and 720,824 for offshore wind. For the obligation period 2006-07 ROCs were worth up to £49.28.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of onshore wind farm developments in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 to date that would have been commercially viable without the renewables obligation subsidy. [212367]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department published an analysis by Ernst and Young (URN07/948) of the cost of renewable generation alongside the Energy White Paper on 23 May 2007. While the renewables obligation offers the financial incentive to stimulate production of renewable energy, the commercial viability of individual wind farms is a matter for wind farm operators.

Summertime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will undertake research into the economic effects of the introduction of British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [214796]

Mr. McFadden: There are no plans to change the current summer time arrangements or to undertake additional research as the Government are not convinced that a change would be in the best interests of the UK.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received carer's allowance in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in the latest period for which figures are available. [216225]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table.

Carer's allowance cases in payment November 2007

	Number
London borough of Bexley	1,460
Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency	580

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended or where the person has underlying entitlement.

3. This information is published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Carers' Allowances

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of a household receiving carer's allowance was in the last period for which figures are available. [213014]

Mrs. McGuire: In the United Kingdom in 2006-07, the median equivalised household income of a household containing a member in receipt of carer's allowance was £308 per week before housing costs and £257 per week after housing costs.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data which are sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. In 2006-07, the number of benefit units recorded as being in receipt of carer's allowance on the Family Resources Survey was 20 per cent. lower than the figure from administrative records.

3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

4. Net incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

5. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equalisation factors.

6. Weekly incomes have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; how much was paid in bonuses in 2007-08; what the largest single payment was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [213278]

Mrs. McGuire: Performance bonus payments are awarded to employees on the basis of their individual performance. They are paid in the financial year following the completion of the performance year and forms part of their annual pay award. The expenditure incurred is in the following table.

Table 1: Amount paid in bonuses to DWP employees since 2003 and the number of employees receiving bonuses

Financial year	*Total employees receiving bonus*	*Proportion of total work force (Percentage)*	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Largest payment (£)*
2003-04	106,123	75	25.29	7,000
2004-05	129,855	95	38.61	10,250
2005-06	123,285	95	42.82	10,400
2006-07	116,096	95	40.68	20,000
2007-08	111,943	95	36.61	26,200

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1613W, on departmental voluntary work, for which organisations members of his Department have volunteered through the Community 5000 scheme in the last 12 months. [211964]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP staff have volunteered to support in excess of 300 Voluntary Organisations through the Community 5000 scheme in the last 12 months (ending June 2008). A full list of the organisations has been placed, for reference purposes, in the House of Commons Library.

Directgov

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation his Department has undertaken with providers and suppliers involved in the development of Directgov. [216771]

Mr. Timms: The process of consultation with suppliers is a continuous process bound by the contractual arrangements currently in place for Directgov and new services as required. Since the transition to DWP in April 2008, consultations have included invitations to tender for various goods and services including procurement of a new managed service for Directgov's mobile and TC platform. In addition, as part of the development of Directgov, other Departments have been fully consulted and their requirements discussed with suppliers as necessary.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what opportunities there are for small businesses to tender for work on the continuing development of Directgov. [216772]

Mr. Timms: DWP recognises that by inviting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to compete for contracts, the Department encourages competition by helping to build up a sound supply base. This also accords with the aim of achieving best value for money as SMEs may be able to provide solutions while having fewer overheads to pass on.

In advertising and selecting potential suppliers, care is taken to ensure that no undue emphasis is placed on company size. DWP also seeks where it can to increase the scope for using SMEs via framework agreements, and encouraging main contractors to engage SMEs as subcontractors.

DWP competitive processes are governed by EU law and UK legislation. DWP is committed to public sector best practice and acts in accordance with OGC standards. Where contract opportunities are to be competed they are appropriately advertised to the market and fair competition is used to select the most suitable solution and value for money obtained for the taxpayer.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the value for money obtained from expenditure from the public purse on Directgov. [216773]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pension took responsibility for Directgov in April 2008 and has put in place comprehensive leadership and management arrangements to deliver the expected business performance, this includes value for money. As part of Sir David Varney's review (December 2006), it was recommended that Directgov become the single digital channel for Government to provide information to the citizen from the whole of Government. The case is based on benefits to the public of joined up public services on line and savings to Departments through the reduction of websites across government and related economies of scale. This recommendation was accepted by all Departments and central funding provided by the Treasury for the SR07 period to enable the rationalisation and convergence of Government websites. The resultant programme for website rationalisation covers the CSR07 period and benefits will be monitored and assessed over this period.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress in the delivery of his Department's services via the Directgov portal. [216774]

Mr. Timms: DWP already delivers significant amounts of its online content on Directgov, including all of its content aimed at disabled people and carers, and much information aimed at those over the age of 50.

All of the Department's transactional services can already be accessed via Directgov as well as through existing departmental sites including the Jobs and Skills job search, a new benefits advisor service and a number of online claims.

We are planning the convergence of all our citizen-facing content and services on to Directgov over the next two financial years and the closure of our citizen-facing sites, in line with the recommendations in the Varney report and the Service Transformation Delivery Agreement.

We have so far closed eight sites and are redeveloping our dwp.gov.uk site this financial year in order to refocus it on our corporate audiences and move citizen-facing services to Directgov.

High-level plans are in place to migrate the Pension Service website by September 2009 and the Jobcentre Plus website by March 2010, on to various parts of Directgov.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what risk assessment his Department has made in respect of the transfer of delivery of online public services via the Directgov portal; and whether he has commissioned any independent reviews. [216813]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pensions took responsibility for Directgov in April 2008. Since then Directgov has become an integral part of the Department's risk and audit process and as such is subject to the same risk and audit procedures as the rest of the Department. In practice this means that Directgov will be assessed throughout each year of the SR07 period as deemed necessary for the risks it faces. DWP also provisioned for independent reviews as part of the arrangements in place for Directgov and intends to carry out independent reviews of Directgov over the period of the SR07. This is in line with the Public Accounts Committee recommendations in Report 16 Government on the Internet: Progress in delivering information and services on 29 April 2008.

Government Communications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215111]

Mrs. McGuire: In the Department for Work and Pensions we currently employ 365 staff who are classified as Government Communicators. Included in this figure is 104 staff who are employed by our agencies.

Organisation	*Number of GCN staff*
DWP Communications	261
Group Finance	3
Jobcentre Plus	44
Child Support Agency	16
Pension, Disability and Carers Service	20
Shared Services	1
Direct Gov	20
Total	365

The Government Communications Network is open to all civil servants who mainly work in a communication role. These individuals have exclusive access to networks, events and community tools (including forums and document sharing) on the GCN website.

Other civil servants can register on the website to access communication guidance and internal vacancies.

Incapacity Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants had dependants under the age of 16 years in each year since 1997, broken down by sex of claimant; and if he will make a statement. [215896]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Number and proportions of incapacity benefit claimants with one or more children, by gender

	Incapacity benefit claimants with dependent children aged 0-15		*Estimated proportion of incapacity benefit claimants with children aged 0-15 (%)*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2005	123,595	185,125	8.3	18.5
2006	96,515	183,330	6.6	18.4
2007	91,050	182,155	6.4	18.4

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
2. Gender breakdown of incapacity benefit claimants with children is not available prior to 2005.
3. Information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system. Therefore the number of incapacity benefit claimants with children has been estimated by merging child benefit records onto benefit claims as at April each year with permission from HMRC.
4. Total number of incapacity benefit claimants is taken from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study at May each year.
5. Proportions are indicative only as the components are based on different sources taken at different months

Source:

DWP Information Directorate

Incapacity Benefit: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the working age population in Peterborough was in receipt of incapacity benefit in each year since 2001, broken down by electoral ward; and if he will make a statement. [216332]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

Working age incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance claimants as a proportion of the working age population in Peterborough city council area, by ward, as at November each year

Percentage

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Barnack	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3
Bretton North	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.6	8.1
Bretton South	4.7	5.2	5.9	5.6	5.8	6.3	5.9
Central	11.0	10.1	9.6	9.1	8.4	8.1	9.5
Dogsthorpe	11.1	11.2	10.9	11.3	11.5	11.0	10.8
East	9.6	10.1	9.3	9.8	9.1	8.9	9.4
Eye and Thorney	4.7	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.7	5.6	6.0
Fletton	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.8
Glinton and Wittering	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.4
Newborough	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.4	3.9	4.2	3.5
North	9.8	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.5	11.3	11.3
Northborough	2.5	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.0	12.4	2.3
Orton Longueville	6.8	7.5	7.1	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.5
Orton Waterville	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7
Orton with Hampton	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.5	4.0
Park	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.1
Paston	8.3	8.1	8.6	8.8	8.8	9.3	9.1
Ravensthorpe	9.3	9.5	9.7	9.2	8.8	8.9	9.5
Stanground Central	6.4	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.8
Stanground East	6.6	6.4	7.0	7.2	6.9	6.7	7.0
Walton	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7
Werrington North	4.9	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.1

Working age incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance claimants as a proportion of the working age population in Peterborough city council area, by ward, as at November each year

							Percentage
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Werrington South	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1
West	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.6

Notes

1. Proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

2. Population figures are ONS experimental ward mid-year population estimates. The methodology used to produce these ward estimates is subject to further review, hence the estimates have been published as "experimental statistics" and are under evaluation. Percentages derived from them should be treated as indicative only.

3. Working age population figures are defined as males aged 15-64 and females aged 15-59. Working age benefit claimant figures are defined as males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.

4. Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards are used for 2001 Census outputs, they are based on administrative ward boundaries legally in force at the end of 2002, which includes ward boundaries that became operative in a number of local authorities in May 2003, and some others that become operative in May 2004. CAS wards are identical to the 2003 Statistical wards except that 18 of the smallest wards (all in England) have been merged into other wards to avoid the confidentiality risks of releasing data for very small areas. This has occurred to those wards with fewer than 100 residents or 40 households (as at the 2001 Census). Unlike statistical wards, CAS wards are not subject to boundary change over time. There are 7,969 CAS wards in England and 881 in Wales, a total of 8,850.

Sources

1. DWP IFD 100 per cent. WPLS.

2. ONS mid-year population estimates.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many full-time jobcentre staffing positions have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* created in each parliamentary constituency since 1997; [213593]

(2) how many jobcentre premises have been closed in each constituency since 1997. [213594]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Lone Parents: Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department intends to spend before *(a)* October 2008, *(b)* October 2009 and *(c)* October 2010 on advertising and communicating to lone parents the changes to eligibility criteria for income support taking place on these dates; and if he will make a statement. [215831]

Mr. Timms: We are developing a communications strategy to support these changes, should they be agreed by Parliament. The associated costs will then be determined. In the interim we have provisionally set aside £330,000 in each of the three years to communicate the changes to all relevant audiences, including staff, customers and stakeholders.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on advertising and communicating to lone parents the changes to eligibility criteria for income support taking place in October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [215834]

Mr. Timms: We have integrated messages about the proposed changes into current engagement with lone parents, such as local Options and Choices events, at no extra cost. We have spent a minimal amount, around £700, developing a factsheet to explain the proposed changes for distribution at the appropriate time.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times jobseeker's allowance claimants requested, but were declined, fast track access to a New Deal Programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [211150]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Pension Credit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people made a claim for backdating of pension credit of *(a)* nine to 12 months, *(b)* six to nine months, *(c)* three to six months, *(d)* one to three months and *(e)* less than one month in each year since October 2003; and if he will make a statement. [213999]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1700W to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

Post Office Card Account: Sedgefield

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people used the Post Office card account for the payment of benefits and pensions in Sedgefield constituency in 2007-08. [213993]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Latest available information showing the number of DWP benefits and pension payments accounts paid into a Post Office card account in Sedgefield constituency has been placed in the Library.

Poverty

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* 18 to 24-year-olds and *(b)* 24 to 30-year-olds lived in households with below 60 per cent. of median income (i) before and (ii) after deducting household costs in each year since 1997. [207146]

Mr. Timms: This information is in the following tables.

Number and proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

		Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage		Number below 60 per cent. of median income (Million)	Percentage below 60 per cent. of median income	Number below 60 per cent. of median income (Million)	Percentage below 60 per cent. of median income
GB	1997-98	0.8	17	1.2	25
	1998-99	0.7	16	1.2	25
	1999-2000	0.8	18	1.2	26
	2000-01	0.8	17	1.0	23
	2001-02	0.8	17	1.1	24
UK	2002-03	0.8	17	1.3	25
	2003-04	0.8	16	1.3	25
	2004-05	0.8	16	1.3	24
	2005-06	1.0	19	1.5	28
	2006-07	1.0	17	1.6	27

Number and proportion of 24 to 30-year-olds in households below 60 per cent. of median income

		Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage		Number below 60 per cent. of median income (Million)	Percentage below 60 per cent. of median income	Number below 60 per cent. of median income (Million)	Percentage below 60 per cent. of median income
GB	1997-98	0.8	15	1.2	20
	1998-99	0.7	13	1.1	19
	1999-2000	0.8	14	1.1	20
	2000-01	0.8	14	1.1	20
	2001-02	0.7	13	1.0	18
UK	2002-03	0.7	14	1.0	20
	2003-04	0.7	14	1.0	20
	2004-05	0.7	13	1.0	19
	2005-06	0.7	13	1.0	19
	2006-07	0.7	14	1.1	21

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.

2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.

6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.

7. Numbers of individuals in each age range have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 individuals, while proportions of individuals in each age range have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

8. Individuals aged 24 are included in both the 18 to 24-year-old age range and the 24 to 30-year-old age range.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the proportion of *(a)* disabled and *(b)* non-disabled people living in poverty in (i) Kettering, (ii) Northamptonshire and (iii) England. [208186]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region. Our poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of poverty by Government office region.

In England in 2006-07, on a Before Housing Cost basis, 24 per cent. of disabled people were in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income, compared to 17 per cent. of non-disabled people. On an After Housing Cost basis, 26 per cent. of disabled people were in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median income, compared to 22 per cent. of non-disabled people.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data, which is sourced from the Family Resources Survey.

2. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years.

3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

4. The Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income.

5. For this analysis, disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity that leads to a significant difficulty

with one or more areas of the individual's life. This is consistent with the definition of disability used in the HBAI publication. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

6. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

7 Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are. This means that After Housing Cost incomes will generally be lower than Before Housing Cost.

8. Proportions of people in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Poverty: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds lived in households below 40 per cent. of median income *(a)* before and *(b)* after deducting household costs in each year since 1997. [207144]

Mr. Timms: The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07". This annual National Statistics publication includes the number and proportion of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportion in persistent poverty. Information covering 40 per cent. of median income is not a sound measure of poverty and is not included in the Households Below Average Income series. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence, any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

The information is in the following table.

Number and proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds in households below 40 per cent. of median income

		Before housing costs		After housing costs	
Coverage		Number below 40 per cent. of median income (Million)	Proportion below 40 per cent. of median income (Percentage)	Number below 40 per cent. of median income (Million)	Proportion below 40 per cent. of median income (Percentage)
GB	1997-98	0.2	5	0.6	12
	1998-99	0.2	5	0.5	11
	1999-2000	0.3	6	0.6	13
	2000-01	0.3	6	0.5	11
	2001-02	0.2	5	0.6	12
UK	2002-03	0.3	6	0.6	13
	2003-04	0.3	6	0.6	12
	2004-05	0.3	6	0.6	12
	2005-06	0.4	7	0.8	14
	2006-07	0.3	6	0.7	13

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
4. The Government's preferred measure of relative low-income poverty is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income. The figures used in this response, based on a threshold of 40 per cent. of contemporary median income are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards.
5. The methodology of the "Households Below Average Income" series uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
6. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
7. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
8. Numbers of 18 to 24-year-olds have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 individuals, while proportions of 18 to 24-year-olds have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in England and Wales have been prosecuted for benefit fraud on *(a)* more than one occasion and *(b)* more than two occasions in each of the last five years. [215002]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information on the number of successful convictions is for England, Wales and Scotland, and is in the following table.

Number of people convicted for benefit fraud on more than one or two occasions in England, Wales and Scotland

	Number of people convicted for benefit fraud on more than one occasion	Number of people convicted for benefit fraud on more than two occasions
2003-04	48	0
2004-05	109	2
2005-06	114	3
2006-07	104	0

Note:

Data are incomplete for 2007-08 due to the roll out of FRAIMS (Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System), the new national case management system for fraud work. Action is currently ongoing to resolve extraction of management information from FRAIMS on this specific issue.

State Retirement Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost of increasing the basic state pension to £124.05, net of income related benefits and additional tax revenue *(a)* with and *(b)* without the winter fuel payment; and if he will make a statement. [216982]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The estimated net annual additional cost of increasing the full rate of basic state pension to £124.05 per week, net of both reductions in income related benefits and additional tax revenue, is around £13 billion in 2008-09.

(b) The estimated net annual additional cost of increasing the full rate of basic state pension to £124.05 per week, net of both reductions in income related benefits and additional tax revenue and taking into account expenditure saved from ceasing the Winter Fuel Payment, is around £10 billion in 2008-09.

Notes:

1. The estimate is in 2008-09 prices and has been rounded to the nearest £ billion.

2. The estimate refers to the UK and overseas.

3. Reductions in income related benefit expenditure and additional tax revenue have been estimated using the Department's policy simulation model.

4. Estimated expenditure on winter fuel payments for 2008-09 takes into account additional payments announced in the Budget 2008.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on alcohol dependency problems in different generations of one family; and what assessment he has made of means of reducing the likelihood of children of alcohol abusers themselves becoming alcohol abusers. [216491]

Beverley Hughes: A cross-Government group commissioned a systematic review of the impact of parental substance misuse which included alcohol from National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention (2006). From this evidence we know that parental alcohol misuse can seriously affect parenting capacity and has negative impacts on children's life chances. Not only does it increases health risks to the unborn child during pregnancy it raises risk of poor educational attainment, offending behaviour, substance misuse and emotional problems in later life.

This is why my Department is investing in targeted interventions for families at risk, which will reduce, over the long term, the number of young people at increased risk of—among others—misusing alcohol. These initiatives include intensive support services to reach the most chaotic families through the Family Interventions Project; and Family Pathfinders to develop local systems and services that improve outcomes for families at risk.

These family based interventions will be evaluated to assess if they are improving outcomes and reducing the risks with those affected by alcohol-misusing parents.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 460W, on departmental official hospitality, when he expects the list of hospitality received in 2007 by members of his Department's management board to be published. [215252]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave him on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215226]

Kevin Brennan: There is no centrally held record of the amount claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in this Department over the last 10 years. To collate this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many reviews of regulation his Department and its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210889]

Kevin Brennan: There have been no reviews of regulations in this Department since July 2007. The arrangements for post legislative reviews of Acts of Parliament were set out in the White Paper "Post-legislative Scrutiny", published in March 2008. We are presently considering all legislation enacted since 2005 which is within scope of the White Paper with a view to initiating discussions about the nature and timing of any reviews with the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee.

Information about regulations more generally including impact assessments, review timetables and reviews is not presently held centrally. However, we are in the process of centralising our records in the light of the increased focus on post implementation reviews following the introduction of the revised impact assessment process in November 2007. This will ensure that reviews are carried out systematically in future.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W, on the *Morning Star*, whether his Department's *(a)* press office, *(b)* ministerial offices and *(c)* library subscribe to the *Morning Star*. [217446]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's press office, ministerial offices and library do not subscribe to the *Morning Star*.

Play: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding allocations his Department will make for children's play to each London local authority in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [216922]

Beverley Hughes: Play and green spaces are an important demand on Government resources and substantial investment has been made in recent years. In the Children's Plan we committed to invest an additional £235 million to fund up to 3,500 public play areas nationally. The £235 million investment will build on existing funding, and provide a real opportunity to transform play areas throughout the country.

Historically, general funding of play has been dependent on local priorities via local area funding. We hope that this additional funding will emphasise our commitment to improving play provision for children and young people and encourage local areas to invest more in play opportunities.

There are currently five play pathfinder local authorities and seven playbuilder local authorities in London. The following tables show the minimum allocations for 2008-09 and indicative allocations for subsequent years for the London pathfinder and playbuilder authorities. Allocations will be finalised in autumn 2008 once we know the additional pathfinder and playbuilder authorities.

On average all pathfinder authorities will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding while playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £46,000 revenue funding. Pathfinder authorities will deliver up to 28 play areas and a new adventure play area while playbuilder authorities will deliver around 20-25 play areas by 2011.

Pathfinders

£

	Capital funding		*Revenue funding*			*Total*
Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	
Camden	604,177	1,577,908	141,117	181,436	181,436	2,686,074
Enfield	594,107	1,551,610	138,510	178,084	178,084	2,640,395
Hackney	612,791	1,600,405	142,918	183,751	183,751	2,723,616
Kensington and Chelsea	596,171	1,556,999	139,443	179,284	179,284	2,651,181
Tower Hamlets	621,944	1,624,311	144,831	186,212	186,212	2,763,510

PlayBuilders

£

	Capital funding			*Revenue funding*			*Total*
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	
Brent	303,415	417,195	417,195	12,695	16,322	16,322	1,183,144
Croydon	301,457	414,503	414,503	12,604	16,206	16,206	1,175,479
Islington	312,832	430,143	430,143	12,950	16,650	16,650	1,219,368
Lambeth	313,149	430,579	430,579	12,958	16,661	16,661	1,220,587
Lewisham	307,785	423,204	423,204	12,818	16,481	16,481	1,199,973
Redbridge	296,436	407,600	407,600	12,474	16,038	16,038	1,156,186
Wandsworth	302,671	416,173	416,173	12,685	16,310	16,310	1,180,322

Playing Fields: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 453-4W, on playing fields: Hampshire, what the status was of the playing fields at Thornden School, Chandler's Ford in *(a)* 1999 and *(b)* 2002. [216569]

Kevin Brennan: In January 2002 Hampshire county council were given consent to dispose of an area of land at Thornden School. The area to be sold consisted of land that could be described as habitat, informal or social land and was situated on the boundary of the school some distance from the school buildings. Because of its configuration the land had not been used, nor was it suitable to be used, for the playing of team games. The proceeds of sale were to be used towards the cost of a new school hall which would include purpose-designed facilities to assist both drama and the music curriculum.

The figures provided in June related only to those applications that involve the sale of an area of land capable of being used as a sports pitch, which is what is generally regarded as playing fields.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils received fixed period exclusions in schools with pupils with *(a)* more and *(b)* fewer than 1,500 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [217182]

Kevin Brennan: The available information showing numbers of fixed period exclusions is shown in the table. It should be noted that some pupils will have more than one episode of fixed period exclusion.

Primary, state funded secondary and all special schools: Number of fixed period exclusions by size of school 2006/07

	Schools with up to 1,500 pupils		Schools with 1,500 pupils or greater		All schools	
	Number of fixed period exclusions	*As a percentage of the population*	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*As a percentage of the population*	*Number of fixed period exclusions*	*As a percentage of the population*
Primary schools	45,730	1.11			45,730	1.11
State funded secondary schools	318,120	11.25	45,150	9.15	363,270	10.94
All special schools	16,600	18.56			16,600	18.56

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes local authority maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Not applicable.

Notes:
1. The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2007.
2. Based on head count of pupils as at January 2007, excludes dual registrations.
3. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation received fixed period exclusions in the last 12 months; [217183]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals were given *(a)* a permanent exclusion and *(b)* a fixed period exclusion in each of the last 10 years; [217201]

(3) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils from schools in each decile of proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals received a fixed period exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available; [217214]

(4) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation received a permanent exclusion in the last 12 months; [217215]

(5) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in schools of each decile of proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals were given a permanent exclusion in the last 12 months. [217216]

Kevin Brennan: Information on fixed and permanent exclusions by income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) of excluding school will be published as additional tables to the SFR, permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools in England 2006/07 on 24 July 2008. This will be available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml.

This release of additional data will also include information on fixed and permanent exclusions by free school eligibility for the school years 2005/06 and 2006/07. Data for the schools years 2000/01 to 2004/05 can only be provided at disproportionate cost. Data for years prior to 2000/01 are not available.

Information on permanent and fixed period exclusions by the decile of proportion of pupils entitled to free schools meals can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Sure Start Programme

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities receive Sure Start funding; and which have children's centres not based in wards among the 20 per cent. most deprived of all wards. [214427]

Beverley Hughes: All 150 local authorities have received funding to establish Sure Start children's centres. In phase 1 (2004 to 2006) of the roll out, centres were developed to offer services to families living in the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged wards, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000. In phase 2 (2006 to 2008) further centres were developed in all local authorities across England to cover communities where the majority of families live in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas, as defined by Super Output Areas, as well as some areas outside the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas. There are currently 2,907 designated children's centres. By 2010 there will be 3,500 centres, one for every community.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged 16 to 24 years old not in education, employment or training (NEETs) there were in each year since 1992; how many of them in each year had been NEETs for *(a)* under (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months, (iv) 12 months and (v) 24 months and *(b)* over 24 months; and how many in each case were not claiming state benefits. [217449]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the length of time young people have been NEET is not available. However, snapshot estimates are available from the Labour Force Survey. The following table gives for England the number and proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds classed as not in employment, education or training for the years available. The figures are split into those who are inactive and those who are unemployed and therefore likely to be claiming unemployment related benefits.

16 to 24 year-olds' not in education employment or training (NEET) by labour market status

	Numbers			Rate (percentage)		
Year	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Total*	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Total*
Spring 1993	520,000	602,000	1,121,000	10.3	8.9	19.2
Spring 1994	490,000	526,000	1,016,000	9.4	8.8	18.1
Spring 1995	468,000	440,000	908,000	8.1	8.6	16.7

16 to 24 year-olds[1] not in education employment or training (NEET) by labour market status

	Numbers			Rate (percentage)		
Year[2]	Inactive	Unemployed	Total	Inactive	Unemployed	Total
Spring 1996	439,000	415,000	854,000	7.8	8.3	16.1
Spring 1997	420,000	339,000	758,000	6.5	8.1	14.6
Autumn 1997	357,000	313,000	669,000	6.1	7.0	13.1
Autumn 1998	358,000	318,000	677,000	6.3	7.1	13.4
Autumn 1999	346,000	284,000	630,000	5.6	6.9	12.5
Autumn 2000	373,000	268,000	640,000	5.3	7.4	12.6
Q4 2001	373,000	284,000	657,000	7.1	5.4	12.6
Q4 2002	384,000	266,000	651,000	7.2	5.0	12.2
Q4 2003	403,000	250,000	653,000	7.5	4.6	12.1
Q4 2004	423,000	299,000	722,000	7.7	5.5	13.2
Q4 2005	464,000	338,000	802,000	8.4	6.1	14.6
Q4 2006	441,000	327,000	768,000	7.9	5.9	13.8
Q4 2007	426,000	316,000	742,000	5.6	7.5	13.1

[1] Academic age has been used here. This means for each quarter's data those aged 16 to 24 as at the preceding 31 August are counted.

[2] The questions used to derive the NEET measure are not asked in all quarters of the LFS. Therefore it is not possible to show NEET rates for the same quarter in all years. NEET measures are seasonal and therefore care is needed in the interpretation of changes between different quarters. Prior to 2001 spring (March to May) and/or autumn (September to November) seasonal quarters are shown. From 2001 calendar quarter 4 (October to November) is shown.

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to answer Questions *(a)* 203546 and *(b)* 203547 on adoption, tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 29 April 2008; what the reason is for the time taken to answer in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216327]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Information about the numbers of children who have adoption as part of their plan is not collected centrally.

Data on the age at adoption of children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March, 2003-2007, are shown below in Table 1. Data on the numbers of children looked after adopted during the years ending 31 March, 2003-2007, by local authority area has been placed in the House of Commons Library (Table LAE1).

The information is taken from Tables E1 and LAE1 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007. The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

Table 1 can be found within the additional information Excel tables supplementing SFR27/2007 on the website. Table LAE1 can be found within the second set of 32 additional tables.

Table 1 Looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March by age at adoption 2003 to 2007[2]

	Number					Percentage				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All children looked after adopted[1]	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Age at adoption (years)	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	220	220	210	200	150	6	6	6	5	5
1 to 4	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,100	62	58	62	64	64
5 to 9	960	1,100	1,100	950	880	27	30	28	26	27
10 to 15	180	210	160	180	160	5	6	4	5	5
16 and over	10	20	20	20	10	0	0	0	0	0

[1] SSDA903 return on children looked after

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Table LAE1: Children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1]

					Numbers
	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]	2007[2]
England	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300
North East	260	230	280	250	240
Darlington	5			5	20
Durham	30	25	30	45	40
Gateshead	15	25	25	20	20
Hartlepool	10	5	5	—	5
Middlesbrough	25	20	30	20	15

Table LAE1 Children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1]

Numbers

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Newcastle Upon Tyne	40	30	40	35	20
North Tyneside	30	15	25	15	25
Northumberland	20	15	25	15	20
Redcar and Cleveland	15	15	5	15	10
South Tyneside	15	30	30	30	30
Stockton-On-Tees	10	15	15	15	15
Sunderland	35	35	45	25	25
North West	550	570	620	620	490
Blackburn with Darwen	10	25	25	20	10
Blackpool	45	25	20	20	35
Bolton	20	15	20	20	25
Bury	20	30	15	20	20
Cheshire	25	15	30	35	10
Cumbria	30	50	45	50	25
Halton	5	10	15	5	15
Knowsley	15	15	20	20	15
Lancashire	60	55	85	85	75
Liverpool	65	55	70	30	20
Manchester	80	60	80	60	55
Oldham	20	20	15	15	20
Rochdale	10	20	20	20	30
Salford	25	35	35	40	20
Sefton	15	20	25	35	15
St Helens	15	20	15	15	10
Stockport	10	20	25	25	20
Tameside	20	20	20	25	10
Trafford	10	10	10	15	-
Warrington		15	10	10	10
Wigan	15	10	15	35	20
Wirral	20	25	15	25	20
Yorkshire and the Humber	440	460	490	440	390
Barnsley	20	15	25	15	20
Bradford	50	55	55	65	45
Calderdale	10	10	20	25	20
Doncaster	35	35	50	20	35
East Riding of Yorkshire	15	10	15	20	25
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	30	35	45	30	30
Kirklees	30	35	20	40	25
Leeds	75	80	80	55	65
North East Lincolnshire	20	15	30	20	10
North Lincolnshire	10	-	10	10	5
North Yorkshire	30	20	25	25	20
Rotherham	30	30	25	30	15
Sheffield	50	70	45	50	50
Wakefield	25	20	25	30	20
York	10	20	20	10	10
East Midlands	330	350	340	340	230
Derby	35	30	20	35	25
Derbyshire	50	40	35	35	20
Leicester	45	35	45	25	30
Leicestershire	15	25	30	20	15
Lincolnshire	65	35	55	80	35
Northamptonshire	40	55	55	60	40
Nottingham	40	55	35	55	30
Nottinghamshire	45	75	55	35	30
Rutland	0			0	
West Midlands	410	420	410	390	370
Birmingham	140	130	110	105	65
Coventry	35	40	30	20	15
Dudley	20	15	15	20	25
Herefordshire	10	10	15	15	
Sandwell	20	15	20	25	30
Shropshire	10	20	15	15	
Solihull	10	5	15	5	15
Staffordshire	50	40	30	45	40
Stoke-On-Trent	30	20	40	20	30
Telford and Wrekin	10	10	15	15	10
Walsall	25	25	35	40	45
Warwickshire	20	25	25	20	30
Wolverhampton	15	25	25	25	40
Worcestershire	20	40	20	20	25
East of England	310	360	340	370	380
Bedfordshire	25	25	15	20	20
Cambridgeshire	15	20	20	25	25
Essex	90	75	110	90	75
Hertfordshire	45	70	45	60	60
Luton	15	40	15	25	20
Norfolk	40	40	45	60	50
Peterborough	25	20	10	20	15
Southend-on-Sea	10	5	10	15	20
Suffolk	35	55	60	80	75
Thurrock	10	15	15	5	15
London	480	570	520	530	490
Inner London	240	300	250	300	260
Camden	20	20	10	15	5
City of London	0	0	0	0	-
Hackney	15	30	25	25	30
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	20	15	10	15
Haringey	10	15	15	20	15
Islington	30	20	20	35	25
Kensington and Chelsea	10	15	10	10	15
Lambeth	15	20	20	30	15
Lewisham	20	35	15	35	15
Newham	20	25	30	15	25
Southwark	35	35	30	20	20
Tower Hamlets	15	25	15	25	35
Wandsworth	15	20	15	35	20
Westminster	15	20	25	20	20
Outer London	240	270	270	230	230
Barking and Dagenham		15	15	20	15

Table LAE1 Children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Numbers* *2007*[2]
Barnet	20	15	15	10	10
Bexley	10	15	15	5	5
Brent	10	15	10	10	10
Bromley	20	10	25	15	15
Croydon	20	30	10	15	15
Ealing	25	25	25	20	20
Enfield	5	15	15	15	15
Greenwich	40	35	40	15	20
Harrow	5	10	-	5	-
Havering	10	10	10	5	10
Hillingdon	15	15	10	10	15
Hounslow	25	10	25	20	30
Kingston Upon Thames				5	
Merton	5	10	10	10	10
Redbridge	10	10		10	5
Richmond Upon Thames	10			10	10
Sutton		10	10	10	
Waltham Forest		15	10	10	15
South East	500	510	510	450	420
Bracknell Forest					
Brighton and Hove	20	30	25	35	30
Buckinghamshire	20	25	20	10	10
East Sussex	50	40	40	40	40
Hampshire	40	50	70	50	50
Isle of Wight	10		5	10	-
Kent	110	135	115	95	90
Medway Towns	25	25	25	30	20
Milton Keynes	10	15	20	10	20
Oxfordshire	30	25	35	30	15
Portsmouth	10	15	10	10	10
Reading	15	10	10	20	10
Slough	15	10	5	10	15
Southampton	30	30	25	15	20
Surrey	50	45	45	50	40
West Berkshire	10	5	10		
West Sussex	40	40	40	20	35
Windsor and Maidenhead	10				
Wokingham			0		
South West	270	290	270	290	300
Bath and North East Somerset		5			10
Bournemouth	15	15	10	5	15
Bristol, City of	45	30	30	25	25
Cornwall	35	35	35	35	50
Devon	35	30	35	40	30
Dorset	15	15	10	15	10
Gloucestershire	30	25	20	30	25
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset		15	15	10	10
Plymouth	20	25	35	35	35
Poole		10	10		5
Somerset	20	30	20	35	30
South Gloucestershire	10				10
Swindon	10	20	15	20	15
Torbay		15	10	15	10
Wiltshire	20	20	15	10	15

[1] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[2] Special guardianship orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

Source:

SSDA903 return on children looked after.

HEALTH

Adoption

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children aged under six months were registered for adoption in each year since 1978; [203546]

(2) how many adoptions there were in each year since 1978, broken down by *(a)* age of those adopted and *(b)* local authority area. [203547]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Information about the number of children who have adoption as part of their plan is not collected centrally.

Data on the age at adoption of children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003-07 are shown as follows in table 1. Data on the number of children looked after adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003-07 by local authority area has been placed in the House of Commons Library (table LAE1).

The information is taken from tables E1 and LAE1 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled "Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007". The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

Table 1 can be found with the additional Excel tables supplementing SFR27/2007 on the website. Table LAE1 can be found within the second set of 32 additional tables.

Table 1 Looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March by age at adoption 2003 to 2007[1, 2] *England*

	Number					*Percentage*				
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All children looked after adopted[1]	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Age at adoption (years)	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100

Table 1: Looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March by age at adoption 2003 to 2007[1,2] England

	Number					Percentage				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Under 1	220	220	210	200	150	6	6	6	5	5
1 to 4	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,100	62	58	62	64	64
5 to 9	960	1,100	1,100	950	880	27	30	23	26	27
10 to 15	180	210	160	180	160	5	6	4	5	5
16 and over	10	20	20	20	10	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was charged for NHS treatment by dentists in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area in each year since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [216961]

Ann Keen: Information about national health service primary dental care expenditure from 1997-98 to 2005-06 is available in the report "NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997-98 to 2005-06", published in March 2008, copies of which have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's (IC's) website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) for 1997-98 to 2005-06 at Tables A1 and B1 of Annex 3. Table A1 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B1 relates to 'net' expenditure. 'Gross' expenditure refers to the full payments recorded; 'net' expenditure reflects these payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of Annex 3.

Information on NHS patient charges in England for 2006-07 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is provided at PCT and SHA level, and is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published in August 2007, has already been placed in the Library and is also available in the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Patient charge data for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Band 3 treatments were carried out by NHS dentists in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area in each quarter since January 2005. [216962]

Ann Keen: The classification of courses of treatment (CoTs) into bands was introduced with the new dental contractual arrangements on 1 April 2006. It is therefore ~~not~~ possible to provide the information requested prior to April 2006.

Information on the number of band 3 CoTs, in England, for the first two quarters of 2007-08 are available in tables A1 and A2 of annex 4 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

Information for quarter three of 2007-08 is available in table A1 of annex 3 of this report. Information is provided by SHA and PCT. Copies of this report, published in June 2008, have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Information Centre for health and social care's (IC's) website at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Information on the number of band 3 CoTs for 2006-07 is available in table A2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This shows the total number of CoTs for the year. Copies of this report, published in August 2007, have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

More generally, there are now three standard charges for national health service dental treatment. This makes it easier to know how much may need to paid, and also helps ensure that charges are for NHS rather than private care.

From 1 April 2008, NHS dental charges are:

Band 1 course of treatment—£16.20;

This covers an examination, diagnosis (e.g. X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and a scale and polish if needed;

Band 2 course of treatment—£44.60;

This covers everything listed in band 1, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or extraction; and

Band 3 course of treatment—£198.00;

This covers everything listed in bands 1 and 2, plus crowns, dentures or bridges.

Dentistry: Graduates

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students graduated from dental schools in the UK in each of the last five years; and how many of each graduation cohort are working in the NHS. [217108]

Ann Keen: Information for United Kingdom is as follows:

	Number of UK dental graduates
2003	709
2004	739
2005	753
2006	771
2007	800

Information is not available centrally on where these dentists are now working, but almost all new graduates undertake one year's vocational training in a dental practice with a major national health service commitment and generally it is some years before a newly qualified dentist can build up a significant private practice. Our reforms to NHS dentistry, which included new remuneration arrangements that allow dentists to spend longer with their patients, are intended to make NHS dentistry more attractive to new dentists.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reviews of regulation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215622]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since July 2007, the Department has reviewed five policy areas that it is responsible for, which cover five specific pieces of regulations.

The Department is putting systems in place to respond to the March 2008 White Paper "Post-legislative scrutiny: the Government's Approach", copies of which are available in the Library.

The revised Impact Assessment process, introduced in November 2007, has increased the focus on post implementation reviews.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214647]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. For information for the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W. Details for the financial year 2007-08 will be published before the summer recess and will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average his Department took to answer *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions in each of the last three years. [215466]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on average times could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department aims to reply to all questions promptly and the information in the following tables gives details of named day questions answered on the day specified and ordinary written questions answered within five and 10 working days.

Named day questions

	Number of named day questions	*Number answered on the day specified*	*Percentage answered on the day specified*
2005	1,299	293	16
2006	1,714	906	56
2007	1,426	855	60

Ordinary written questions

	Number of ordinary written questions	*Number answered within five working days*	*Percentage answered within working five days*	*Number answered within 10 working days*	*Percentage answered within 10 working days*
2005	6,534	573	9	3,200	49
2006	7,544	604	8	3,324	44
2007	6,700	1,016	15	3,397	51

Doctors: Housing

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS trusts on the future use of accommodation units formerly provided free of charge to junior doctors; and if he will make a statement. [217269]

Ann Keen: On 30 July 2007, NHS Employers issued guidance to NHS trusts reflecting the Department's view that trusts should maintain existing arrangements and continue to provide free accommodation until 30 July 2008 for all first year junior doctors. The use of accommodation units is a matter for trusts to decide locally, but it remains a contractual requirement that first year junior doctors should have accommodation provided without charge if they are contractually required to be resident.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* title and *(b)* date was of each report produced for his Department by Ipsos MORI in the last 12 months. [212718]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ipsos MORI produced the following reports for the Department in the period June 2007 to May 2008:

Report	*Date*
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 18	June 2007
Stakeholder Research Programme	July 2007
Attitudes to Pandemic Flu National Framework	June 2007
NHS Desk Research Insight Project	August 2007
Public Perceptions of the NHS July 2007	August 2007
Qualitative Research into Access to GP Practices	September 2007
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 19	October 2007
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 1	October 2007
Choice Omnibus Survey	November 2007
GP Satisfaction Among Ethnic Minority Groups	November 2007
Senior Stakeholder Survey (Quantitative)	November 2007
Long-Term Health Conditions	December 2007
NHS Choices evaluation - public tracker survey (benchmark and one tracker)	January 2008
Public Perceptions of the NHS, December 2007	January 2008
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 2	January 2008

Report	*Date*
Access to Primary Care Tracker Wave 20	March 2008
Patient Experience Survey - Pilot Study	March 2008
Practice based commissioning: GP practice survey wave 3	April 2008
Pandemic Flu - Engagement and Communication Plan	April 2008
NHS Staff Survey Analysis	May 2008
Pandemic Flu Communications	May 2008
Patient Choice Omnibus	May 2008
Public Perceptions of the NHS March 2008	May 2008

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions there are on the release of information from the secondary user's database; and what assessment he has made of the restrictions which will apply to prior transfer to the secondary user's database of information held by clinicians. [213349]

Mr. Bradshaw: The release of patient-identifiable information from the secondary uses service database is subject to approval from the Patient Information Advisory Group (PIAG) which has a statutory role in approving access to patient information. Further restrictions are relating to the prior transfer of information held by clinicians arises from a secondary uses subgroup, established by the Care Record Development Board in March 2006, to assess the issues around uses of patient-identifiable data for purposes other than direct patient care. Their report was published in August 2007, copies have been placed in the Library and are also available on the connections for health website at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/crdb/workstreams/secusesreport.pdf.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many exceptional funding requests for treatment were *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined by primary care trusts in each financial year since 2002-03. [216913]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services on behalf of their populations and to make decisions locally on which treatments to fund, taking into account all relevant circumstances and their statutory responsibilities and the principles of administrative law set out by the courts, particularly in relation to funding policies and whether to fund treatment in exceptional circumstances.

The draft NHS Constitution makes clear the patient's right to expect local decisions on funding for drugs, for which National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance is not available, to be made rationally following proper consideration of the evidence. To underpin this, the Government will require PCTs to put in place clear and transparent arrangements both for local decision-making on funding of new drugs and for considering exceptional funding requests, and to publish information on those arrangements. Where the local NHS decides not to fund a treatment, the patient and clinician can expect an explanation.

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which clinical and patient support bodies *(a)* support and *(b)* oppose his Department's proposals to deregulate Class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources; [216315]

(2) which individuals and organisations have responded to Question 3.3 of the consultation paper Private and voluntary healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000. Regulations and national minimum standards *(a)* in support of and *(b)* in opposition to deregulation of Class 3B and 4 lasers and intense light sources. [216504]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department recently held a public consultation on proposed changes to the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Regulations, including proposed changes to the regulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light sources. This consultation ended on 10 June 2008. The information requested will form part of our consultation response, and we expect to publish the response by the end of summer 2008.

Medicine: Graduates

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students from medical schools in the UK have graduated in each of the last five years; and how many of each graduation cohort are working in the NHS. [217107]

Ann Keen: The number of students who have graduated from medical schools in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which we have data is shown in the following table. We do not have the number from each graduation cohort who are working in the national health service. However, the following table shows the number of foundation programme 1/house officers working in the NHS for England as of 30 September for each year.

	Number of UK graduates[1]	*Number of foundation programme 1/house officers in England*[2]
2003	4,641	4,003
2004	4,805	4,273
2005	5,176	4,663
2006	5,576	4,905
2007	6,208	5,240

Sources

[1] HEFCE Medical Returns, First Registrable Medical Qualification, output as of 31 July for each year

[2] The Information Centre for health and social care.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215662]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department purchases three copies of the *Morning Star* for Monday to Friday and two copies for Saturday at a current total cost of £10.20 a week. The Department's two executive agencies (the

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) do not purchase this publication.

NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received on the case for introducing an NHS constitution in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [216905]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1762-63W, on the NHS: reorganisation, what work is being carried out on the case for an NHS constitution; what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* NHS staff, *(b)* patient groups and *(c)* others on the case for an NHS constitution; and on what dates. [216937]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The draft national health service constitution presented for consultation builds on an extensive development process, including a literature review, discussions with patients, the public and staff, contributions from a wide range of experts and think-tanks, and a major deliberative event with stakeholders in February 2008. Early drafts of the constitution were tested with these stakeholders, with experts and with patients, the public and staff. Patient and public groups told us it was useful to summarise their key rights in one place.

The research to establish a set of NHS-wide values involved over 9,000 staff and over 5,500 patients and members of the public, as well as evidence from existing surveys of over 1 million patients.

NHS Interim Management and Support

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans the NHS Interim Management and Support will be established, as referred to on page 4 of his Department's document, Developing the NHS Performance Regime, published on 4 June 2008; what budget will be provided to NHS Interim Management and Support in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [216906]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Interim Management and Support Programme is in a 'proof of concept' stage until the end of this financial year, when it will be fully evaluated and the steering group will make a recommendation to the 10 strategic health authorities on a way forward.

NHS: Chilvers McRae Healthcare

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department's commercial directorate has made of the range of services provided to the NHS by Chilvers McRae. [216399]

Mr. Bradshaw: All bidders who participate in procurements run or supported by the Department are subject to a rigorous assessment process across a range of work streams, including legal, clinical, financial and workforce.

A key role of the Commercial Directorate is to support primary care trusts (PCTs) in their procurements, and it is up to the PCTs to take a considered view on services being offered by providers.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total lifetime length of each of the Connecting for Health systems. [215857]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Programme for IT, which is being implemented by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency, exists to provide the information systems and services the national health service needs to deliver modern effective health care to patients and to improve clinical quality and safety. The systems are being developed using standards and architecture that enable them to operate to high levels of resilience and service availability for the foreseeable future and can be upgraded to accommodate new requirements. As is normal practice, technology components are regularly refreshed to keep pace with new developments. The existing contracts for deployment of national applications and local systems, currently have end dates variously between 2009 and 2015.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 121W, on NHS ICT, what recent estimate he has made of the minimum annual revenue funding required to keep the systems established through the NHS national programme for information technology running beyond 2010-11. [216224]

Mr. Bradshaw: The revenue beyond 2010-11 required to support systems delivered by the National Programme for IT will be dependent on the number and type of deployments per contract and, in some cases, on new or extended contracts. This falls into a future spending review period and it is not possible to make a meaningful estimate now because of the number of variables involved.

NHS: Private Sector

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients resident in the London borough of Havering have been referred to a private hospital for an operation in the last three years. [214180]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available on national health service-funded first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs) for Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT), carried out by United Kingdom independent sector and overseas providers, including independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs).

The following table shows this information for the last three years.

Independent sector inpatient activity, Havering PCT 2005-06 to 2007-08 (Commissioner based)

	General and Acute	
	Elective FFCEs carried out by UK independent sector and overseas providers	Elective FFCEs carried out by ISTCs
2005-06	83	
2006-07	432	
2007-08	3,570	3,179

Note:
Patients may not be resident at Havering PCT, but registered with general practitioners in the Havering PCT area.
Source:
Department of Health quarterly activity return, local delivery plan return, Department of Health monthly activity return, monthly monitoring return

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative information about *(a)* commissioners and *(b)* providers will be published by the Care Quality Commission, as referred to by the Chief Executive of the NHS on page 4 of his Department's document, Developing the NHS Performance Regime, published on 4th June 2008. [216908]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Health and Social Care Bill, introduced to Parliament on 9 November 2007, sets out the proposed functions of the Care Quality Commission. Should the Bill receive Royal Assent, the Department will work with the Care Quality Commission to determine what comparative information will be published.

Post-neonatal Mortality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the mortality rate of babies born prematurely. [217344]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 584-85W.

Xansa

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has signed with Xansa plc in the last five years. [215127]

Mr. Bradshaw: Historically, information on contracts let by the Department has not been held centrally. The information requested could be obtained only from direct contact with individual business units and would result in disproportionate costs.

From 1 July 2008 an integrated Business Management Service will create a central store for all new contracts.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, (1) how many publicly-funded adult education classes were provided in each year since 2001; [216947]

(2) how many adults participated in publicly-funded adult education classes in each year since 2001. [216948]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 7 July 2008]:* Total Government investment in the post-16 further education system has increased by 52 per cent. in real terms from 1997 to 2007. Over the next three years, Government investment in adult learning will increase by 17 per cent. reaching £3.6 billion per year by 2010-11.

Our planned and continuing strategy is to realign funding from a high number of very short and low quality courses to qualifications such as Skills for Life, full level 2 and full level 3 that offer the greatest opportunity for adults to gain the skills for employability and further progression in learning. This includes a full range of first steps and progression programmes below level 2 progression programmes encouraging adults back into learning.

But we understand that as well as increasing skills, education is also about meeting the basic human desire for intellectual stimulation. That is why we have safeguarded £210 million each year through to 2010/11 to support informal adult learning. Through our recent consultation, we have led discussion on a new vision for informal adult learning for the 21st century.

The funding payable to a college or provider is based on the provision undertaken by individual learners, therefore information is collected at individual learner level. Information on the number of adult education courses offered by colleges/providers is not collected.

The following table sets out the total number of LSC-funded adult learners aged 19+ in England from 2003/04, the earliest year for which comparable data is available. The figures cover learners enrolled in further education, work-based learning, adult safeguarded learning (formerly adult and community learning) and Train to Gain provision.

Number of LSC funded learners aged 19 or over 2003/04 to 2006/07

Academic year	Number of LSC funded learners aged 19+
2003/04	4,587,390
2004/05	4,546,910
2005/06	3,886,040
2006/07	3,166,270

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Learning and Skills Council individualised learner record

Apprentices: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated for the development and maintenance of apprenticeships in Bexley in each year since 2005. [216185]

Mr. Lammy: Information on Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding allocated to London East LSC for apprenticeships is provided in the following table.

Table: London East LSC apprenticeships funding allocation

	Apprenticeships funding allocation £ million
2005/06	14.2
2006/07	13.7
2007/08	13.8

Source:
Learning and Skills Council

Although funding has reduced, apprenticeship starts are projected to rise above the 2006/07 volume of 2,150. Completion rates are also improving but at 52 per cent. need to improve significantly to match the national average.

Departmental Buildings

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on which buildings occupied by his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies the lease will be due for renewal in the next four years. [214680]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested on agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally and to collate it could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211687]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes on 28 June, 2007. Since that date the Department has hosted the conferences as shown in the following table.

Date	*Conference*	*Cost (£)*
September 2007	Futures Analysts Network joint meeting with the CBI "Business Perspectives on the Future"	32,318
17 October 2007	Foresight Tackling Obesities: Future Choices Main Launch Event	8,620
6 November 2007	Foresight Tackling Obesities: Future Choices Conference, at Institute of Child Health	10,000
November 2007	Futures Analysts Network "Where Next in Government Futures"	13,672
February 2008	Futures Analysts Network Meeting "The role of futures thinking in Government Strategy"	23,125
May 2008	Futures Analysts Network Meeting "Across the Oceans—Britain's Future Abroad"	23,233
2008	Foresight's Co-sponsorship of the RIBA Futures Fair	8,000
13 July 2007	Stakeholder event on the European Commission's Green Paper on the European Research Area	4,686.30
26/27 November 2007	The UK/Korean STIP (Science, Technology and Innovation Partnership)	11,450.47
13 June 2007	Peer review of Government commissioned research	7,500
29 Nov 2007	Embedding the effective management and use of Science and Research	7,500
27 March 2008	Information flows within Science Advisory Committees	7,500
5 September 2007	Consultation on the review of the Code of Practice for Science Advisory Committees	7,500
17-18 May 2007	The Bologna Ministerial Conference	225,294
7-8 Feb 2008	"Strengthening Partnerships between Professional Bodies, Sector Skills Councils and Higher Education Institutions"	106,717.02
18 June 2008	Higher Education at Work, High Skills: High Value consultation	97,818.75
January 2007	FE Futures 2025 Event	21,596.00
February 2007	Leitch/FE Reform event	127,548.00
February 2007	The Skills Challenge deliberative debate	347,059.00
March 2007	Internal: FESG DD/TL awayday	4,982.00
March 2007	Skills for Families conference	50,000.00
June 2007	Skills Pledge launch	102,008.00
July 2007	Internal: FESG DD/TL awayday	6,615.00
November 2007	Internal: FESG all staff awayday	28,404.00
November 2007	National Skills for Life conferences 2007 (three events)	299,993.00
January 2008	Getting the Vocational Qualifications System right: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity	50,246.00
January 2008	Ready to Work conference	150,000.00
February 2008	FE colleges scenario planning event	39,195.00
February 2008	Internal: FESG DD/TL awayday	4,152.00
March 2008	Consultation event on FE providers' role in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism	4,830.00
March 2008	Skills for Families conference	50,000.00
During March 2008	Raising Expectations Consultation Events Series	65,000.00
June 2008	Informal Adult Learning Consultation Event (Citizen's Forum)	105,000.00
	Investors in People annual conference	0
30 April 2008	DIUS All Staff Conference	124,417.38

Departmental Waste

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215892]

Mr. Lammy: Estates and related facilities management services are provided on behalf of this Department by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children Families and Schools, and answers supplied by those Departments will cover ours as well.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years. [214909]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department do not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214910]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold records at this level of detail, to answer the question would be at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the number of 18-year-olds with *(a)* an academic and *(b)* a vocational Level 3 qualification who did not enter higher education by the age of 19 years who moved on to (i) jobs without training, (ii) jobs with training, (iii) jobs with apprenticeships, (iv) full-time education at Level 3 or below, (v) unemployment and (vi) economic inactivity in the latest period for which figures are available; [216927]

(2) what proportion of 18-year-olds with *(a)* academic and *(b)* vocational Level 3 qualifications entered (i) full-time higher education and (ii) part-time higher education by the age of 19 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [216928]

Bill Rammell: The proportion of maintained school pupils who gained one or more GCE A-levels in 2003/04, who entered a full-time higher education course at a UK higher education institution aged 18 in 2004/05 or aged 19 in 2005/06, was 73.9 per cent. The proportion who entered a part-time course was 1.6 per cent.

The proportion of maintained school pupils who took one or more VCE A-levels in 2003/04, who entered a full-time higher education course at a UK higher education institution aged 18 in 2004/05 or aged 19 in 2005/06, was 55.3 per cent. The proportion who entered a part-time course was 1.9 per cent.

Information on the employment status of those pupils with level 3 qualifications who do not go to higher education is not currently available.

Higher Education: Medicine

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 321W, on higher education: medicine, which university medical schools are participating in widening participation schemes; what financial provision has been extended to them by the Government in respect of such schemes; what criteria or guidance has been laid down by the Government for such schemes; and how many students entered foundation years prior to undertaking medical degrees as a result of such schemes in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by university. [217156]

Bill Rammell: The Government are determined to widen participation so that everyone with the potential to benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. The main scheme for widening participation is Aimhigher which aims to raise the attainment levels of young people, their aspirations towards university and improve progression. Most activities are not subject-specific, although some activities are designed to raise awareness of and encourage progression to specific subjects such as medicine.

The total Aimhigher budget is £85 million in 2008-09. Guidance for Aimhigher Partnerships was published in February 2008 and is available on the Aimhigher website at:

http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner

Several medical schools run schemes to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds. These are entirely a matter for the individual medical school — no specific Government funding or guidance is provided for these schemes, and data on admissions, including foundation years, are not collected centrally.

Students: Loans

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the reasons are for using the retail price index to calculate interest due on student loans; and if he will consider the use of the consumer price index instead. [214778]

Bill Rammell: Parliament determines the interest rate to be paid on student loans. The principle is that borrowers should repay the same amount, in real terms, as they borrowed. To achieve this, the rate of interest is based upon the retail price index (RPI), although the precise method for determining the rate of interest varies depending on the type of loan.

The interest rate for older 'mortgage style' (MS) loans is determined in accordance with the Education (Student Loans) Regulations 1998 which prescribe the rate of interest to be equal to the RPI so long as that index is published. This basis for calculating the interest rate is also set out in the MS Loan Consumer Credit Act agreements, the key terms of which cannot be altered retrospectively.

From 1998/99, income contingent repayment (ICR) loans replaced MS loans for new borrowers. These are 'low interest loans' exempt under section 16(5) (b) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Borrowers only repay when they earn more than £15,000 a year, at an affordable rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above this threshold. Interest is calculated in accordance with the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2007, as amended, and is the lower of March's RPI or 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates published by the banks listed in Regulation 4 of the Consumer Credit (Exempt Agreements) Order 1989.

Accordingly, there is potential for the interest rates for the two types of loans to differ but, to date, the RPI rate has consistently applied to both types of loans since their inception.

The Government have no plans to abandon the consistent use of RPI in calculating interest on student loans. There is no single measure of inflation that is appropriate for all purposes. RPI is an index that is still widely used as the basis for uprating a range of state benefits and entitlements. Over time, it is a measure of inflation which is fair, both to taxpayers, and to student loans borrowers. The cost of providing student loans is already heavily subsidised by the taxpayer, enabling the average interest rate on student loans, to date, to be below 3 per cent. per annum — significantly lower than for commercial loans.

Vocational Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the planned level of expenditure on sector compacts for *(a)* engineering, *(b)* construction, *(c)* hospitality and *(d)* process manufacturing is for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; [216889]

(2) what the estimated level of planned expenditure on sector compacts for *(a)* engineering, *(b)* construction, *(c)* hospitality and *(d)* process manufacturing will be as a proportion of Train to Gain funding in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; [216890]

(3) what additional sector compacts he expects to be agreed in the next 12 months. [216891]

Mr. Lammy: Sector compacts are a 'something for something' deal between Government and employers to drive up the skills of the work force in each sector to ensure that our nation has the world class skills it needs to meet the challenges of the global economy. In return for some flexibility in, and enhancement to, the core Train to Gain offer, the employers in each sector commit to increasing their engagement with Train to Gain and their investment in the skills of their work force.

Of a total Train to Gain budget of approximately £2.5 billion over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11, the planned level of Train to Gain expenditure through compacts for:

(i) Engineering (through the SEMTA compact) is £65 million, 2.6 per cent. of the total Train to Gain budget for the period to 2010-11;

(ii) Construction (through the ConstructionSkills compact) is £133 million, 5.3 per cent. of the total Train to Gain budget;

(iii) Hospitality (through the People 1st compact) is £112 million, 4.5 per cent. of the total Train to Gain budget;

(iv) Process manufacturing (through the Proskills compact), is £62 million, 2.5 per cent. of the total Train to Gain budget.

We are now working to realise these compacts through Train to Gain; the profile of spend over the coming years will depend on the rate at which employers come forward to take up the enhanced offer we are making available in Train to Gain through compacts. The LSC are currently working with each SSC concerned to develop spend profiles, which may run beyond the period to 2010-11.

It is important to note that some of the commitments agreed in compacts, such as the cost of additional apprenticeship places, will not be funded through Train to Gain directly but will draw on other, existing budgets. Our aim is to agree compacts for every SSC sector that wants one, and who can deliver a significant increase in demand for skills from employers to ensure that we are addressing the nation's skills needs. We will also explore the potential for developing compacts with key partners around large cross-sector projects such as the London 2012 Olympics.

Vocational Training: Equality

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the promotion of equality in skills learning in sectors where one sex has traditionally been under-represented; and to which career sectors this policy has been applied. [216647]

Mr. Lammy: The then Department for Education and Skills, published its first Gender Equality Scheme (GES) in May 2007 setting out positive steps to promote gender equality. Work is now in hand to develop a Single Equality Scheme for DIUS, for publication in 2008.

Our overall approach to promoting equality in skills learning is to develop our understanding of participation and attainment rates across different groups of learners and to develop a targeted strategy to better engage those groups under-represented. In addition we seek to assess the impact of all our new policies on different groups, including gender, in order to address any areas of under-representation.

As Minister for Skills I announced on 7 March that £5 million per year was being made available to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to continue the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative for the next three years. The intention is to help up to 5,000 women each year. We are focussing on sectors, sub-sectors and occupations where there are specific skills gaps and shortages and under-representation of women.

The UK Commission is contracting in 2008-09 with five Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) which have ran projects in previous years to maintain the momentum of this work. The UK Commission has also issued a Prospectus requesting expressions of interest from all the other SSCs.

The continuing SSC projects cover the following sectors:

construction

environmental and land-based industries

fashion and textiles

property services, housing, cleaning services and facilities management

retail motor industry

In 'World-class Apprenticeships' we committed to look at how we can address inequalities including the gender disparity that exists primarily in the 'traditional' Apprenticeship sectors. For example, in 2006-07 only 1 per cent. of construction and 4 per cent. of engineering Apprenticeship starts were women, compared to over 90 per cent. of people starting Apprenticeships in the care and hair and beauty sectors. Some of the practical measures we planned include:

positive action and targeted funding support for learners making non-traditional career choices;

pilots to drive 'critical mass' of learners in non-traditional occupations to encourage more such applications;

'Super-mentors' to be appointed to support a typical apprentice through their experience;

and LSC contractual minimum pay requirements to be fully enforced pending a future investigation of apprenticeship wages by the Low Pay Commission.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what offices his Department has in each African country; and how many staff work in each office. [216293]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development has offices in 20 countries in Africa, with a total of 593 staff, made up of 206 UK home civil servants and 387 local staff employed on SAIC (staff appointed in country) terms, located as follows:

DFID offices and staff in Africa

Country	UK staff	Local staff	Total
Burundi	3	3	6
DRC	17	27	44
Ethiopia	17	34	51
Ghana	9	21	30
Kenya	13	37	50
Malawi	14	33	47
Mozambique	10	22	32
Nigeria	27	45	72
Rwanda	11	16	27
Sierra Leone	11	19	30
South Africa	12	21	33
Sudan	21	11	32
Tanzania	9	21	30
Uganda	12	29	41
Zambia	10	22	32
Zimbabwe	6	22	28

DFID staff are based in FCO posts or other locations in the following countries

Country	UK staff	Local staff	Total
Angola	1	1	2
Gambia	1	3	4
Lesotho	1	0	1
Liberia	1	0	1
Totals	206	387	593

There are four offices in Nigeria, in Abuja, Kano, Lagos and Enugu. There are two offices in Sudan, in Khartoum and in Juba, which is a joint-donor operation.

Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department plans to provide to the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool in 2008-09. [216288]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In April 2008 the Africa and Global Conflict Prevention Pools (the ACPP and GCPP) were merged to form a single combined Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). The CPP is managed jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its budget is voted on separately by Parliament to support the Government's conflict prevention policy in line with the tri-departmental public service agreement (PSA) on conflict.

The CPP is divided into six regional and two thematic programmes, including a dedicated Africa Programme, reflecting priorities set by Ministers through NSID(OD) (the Overseas and Defence Ministerial Subcommittee of the National Security, International Relations and Development Committee). The Africa Programme has an initial allocation of £62.5 million for financial year 2008-09 from the total CPP budget of £112 million.

Cocoa

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on cocoa: children, if he will make it his policy to seek a prohibition on the sale in the UK of chocolate made with cocoa farmed by trafficked children. [216359]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly condemns the use of trafficked labour in the production of cocoa and other industries. However, we believe the best way to raise labour standards is through capacity building and co-operation, and encouragement of business and governments, rather than trying to impose restrictions on trade. Ultimately, it is for individual governments to set and enforce their own labour standards, to protect workers in their own countries and provide a 'level playing field' for companies.

DFID supports a range of initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of children to trafficking and to support fair and ethical supply chains for the chocolate and other industries. This includes promoting the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises which set down the employment standards that the Government expect UK companies to implement in their supply chains. It also includes supporting the Fairtrade Foundation and the Ethical Trading Initiative which requires its corporate members to adopt the ETI Base Code which includes not using child labour.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on cocoa, what recent reports he has received of progress on the part of the International Cocoa Initiative towards achieving its goal to survey 50 per cent. of Cote d'Ivoire cocoa farms by July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [216364]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any report of the progress of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) in surveying cocoa farms in Cote d'Ivoire. Our understanding is that the ICI is not involved in the survey process linked to the Cocoa (Harkin-Engel) protocol.

As part of its commitment under the protocol, the government of Cote d'Ivoire published their report of the Initial Diagnostic National Survey of Labour in the Cocoa Production Industry on 26 June 2008.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on cocoa: children, if he will support the Stop the Traffik campaign in the preparation and its forthcoming report, People shouldn't be bought and sold. [216365]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not seen the Stop the Traffik report—'People shouldn't be bought and sold'. However, we strongly agree with title statement of the report.

Poverty is at the root of many contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking. DFID is working to eliminate poverty and reduce poor people's vulnerability to exploitation. DFID also, through its support of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Ethical Trading Initiative, promotes the implementation, by businesses, of employment standards, such as not using child labour, in their supply chains.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much was paid in sick pay to staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility in each of the last five years; what proportion of the annual staffing expenditure of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216124]

(2) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216126]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details at the level requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, data for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 are available on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement; [216125]

(2) what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [216127]

(3) how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement; [216128]

(4) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken by staff of each body this figure represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216129]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details at the level requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, data for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 are available on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Data for the most recent 12 month period for which details are available, show that in the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008:

1,148 days were lost due to mental health and behavioural disorders and 982 days were lost due to stress. A total of 2,130 days;

The 2,130 days represented absence by 57 staff, of which 32 recorded mental health and behavioural disorders, and 25 recorded stress;

The 2,130 days represented 67 separate absences; the most common length of single period absence was for one day.

The 2,130 days lost due to stress or mental health and behavioural disorders represents 0.5 per cent. of the total number of available working days for the 1,975 people employed by DFID during the year 2007-08.

Total days lost to sick absence represented 2.3 per cent. of the total number of available working days for the 1,975 people employed by DFID during the year 2007-08.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation scheme; what meetings officials in his Department have had on the scheme since its inception; what the *(a)* current and *(b)* planned funding for the scheme is; and if he will make a statement. [215875]

Mr. Malik: Over the last two years, Department for International Development (DFID) officials have attended key meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and technical meetings with stakeholders and negotiating partners in the UK and internationally, to discuss Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

A successful decision on REDD was reached at the UNFCCC conference in Bali in December 2007. The decision recognises that REDD should be part of a post-2012 climate agreement and sets out a process for establishing how to achieve this ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, in 2009.

Currently, the UK is contributing £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and £50 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund. We have also provided £250,000 to support a Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme in Indonesia. The Prime Minister recently commissioned a review on financial mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation. We will consider how we can further support REDD activities in light of the findings.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place a copy of the latest UK Sub-Saharan Strategy for Conflict Prevention in the Library. [216292]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I shall place a copy of the UK Sub-Saharan Strategy for Conflict Prevention in the Library.

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions there have been between his Department and the United States Administration on funding for the United Nations Population Fund; and if he will make a statement. [216346]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has regular dialogue with all donors and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on funding for that organisation and on access for poor people in developing countries to reproductive health services. We continue to discuss with the United States effective and country-led approaches to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 July 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Absent Voting: Fraud

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent estimate the Electoral Commission has made of levels of postal vote fraud. [215493]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in its view there is no reliable means of estimating levels of postal vote fraud. There are a number of offences which may encompass postal vote fraud and cases of such fraud cannot therefore be readily distinguished from other forms of electoral malpractice.

The Commission works closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, together with the prosecution services, to ensure that allegations of electoral offences are recorded and monitored.

The Commission informs me that in September 2008 it intends to publish an analysis of allegations reported to ACPO in relation to the May 2008 elections across England and Wales. The Commission also intends to update its analysis of Crown Prosecution Service files before the end of this year. These documents will be made available on the Commission's website at

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Electoral Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the new Great Britain-wide manual on registration sent to electoral registration officers by the Commission. [217790]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that a copy of "Managing electoral registration in Great Britain: guidance for Electoral Registration Officers" is available in the Library. The document may also be found on the Commission's website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Manpower

Mr. Love: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many staff are employed by the Commission in each Directorate; and how many staff are engaged in the Commission on work on the compliance with notification of political donations by hon. Members. [216830]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the number of staff employed in each directorate as at 30 June 2008, measured in full-time equivalents (FTE), was as follows:

Directorate	*Staff in post (FTE) as at 30 June 2008*
Chief Executive and Directors	7.0
Deputy Chief Executive	36.2
Legal advice and implementation of boundary review changes	7.92
Commission Secretariat, strategy and Planning	5
Research	3
Scotland Office (Edinburgh)	6
Wales Office (Cardiff)	5.81
Northern Ireland Office (Belfast)	6
Business Support	2.47
Electoral Administration and Boundaries	41.98
Electoral Administration	10
Performance Standards	4
North of England Office (York)	3.58
South of England Office (London)	3
South West Office (Exeter)	3
Midlands Office (Coventry)	3
Boundary Reviews	11.4
Business Support	4
Communication	28.0
Public awareness campaigns	5
Public inquiries	3
Partnership Grants	3
Publications and Websites	5
Media Relations	5
Parliamentary and Public Affairs	4
Business Support	3
Finance and Corporate Services	22.5
Finance	4.5
Human Resources	5.5
Information and Communication Technology	7
Facilities and Procurement	4
Business Support	1.5
Party and Election Finance	25.0
Guidance	8
Enforcement	9
Business Support	8
	160.68

Within the party and election finance directorate nine staff (as at 30 June 2008) work in the enforcement function. These staff deal with the rules on notification of political donations among other duties.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advantage West Midlands

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the capital budget for Advantage West Midlands was in each of the last two years; what it is forecast to be in the current financial year; and what capital projects were carried out by Advantage West Midlands with a value over £1 million in that period. [214314]

Mr. McFadden: The capital budget for the last two years and the forecast for 2008-09 are as follows:

Advantage West Midlands

	Capital budget (£ million)
2006-07	134
2007-08	150
2008-09 (forecast)	164

The following list gives the capital projects that were carried out by Advantage West Midlands with a value over £1 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Project name

ZF Lemforder UK Ltd
Environmentally Friendly Engine (EFE)
Mercia Technology Seed Fund 2
Hilton Cross Phase 2 (Mercury)
World Class Stratford the Waterfront
DSDA - James Bridge IMI Site
Burton - Investing in Inclusion
The Fort Mixed Birmingham
Fazeley Studios Digbeth
Eastside City Park
Franklin House Hereford
Blueschool House Hereford
Longbridge Nanomaterials Centre (LNC)
icentral Wolverhampton
Olympus Engineering
Relocation of City College Coventry to Learning Quarter
Property Regeneration Partnership
Blists Hill Victorian Town Development
Bankfield Road Wolverhampton
Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre
Granby Avenue (Garretts Green, Birmingham)
St. Clements Gate -Site Clearance Castle Street
Brierley Hill Central Core Land Remediation
Bromsgrove Technology Park
Corus Site
University Centre, Burton
Rural Broadband Access Project
Dudley Town Centre - 254-9 Castle St
Bilston Urban Village Phase 2
CSW HTC ACT (UK)
Belgrade Theatre Redevelopment
Worcester Sixways Development
Stoneleigh Park
Sandwell College Spon Lane
RRZ Enterprise Centre Network
Advantage Early Growth Fund
MG Rover Vocational Centre
Hereford Learning Village
CTB Technology Transfer Fund
Malvern Science and Technology Park
CSW HTC Serious Games Institute
North Solihull Learning Village
Lymedale Business Centre
Golden Hillock
Advantage Enterprise Innovation Fund
Mercia Technology Seed Fund 1
Advanced Sensors Innovation project
R and D Centre for Premium Automotive Extension
3 Elms Trading Estate, Hereford
Royal Shakespeare Co: Redevelopment
Keele University Science and Business Park
Chatterley Valley Phase 1
Malvern Hills Science Park Phase
CSW HTC 27 The Digital Laboratory
Energy Futures Programme - Hydrogen Energy Project
Icknield Loop Ladywood Birmingham
Advantage Media Production Fund
Ansty Park Strategic 11 Site
Longbridge
Rotherwas Future
Business Support Premises
R And D Centre For Premium Automotive
Aston Community Sports and Leisure
NW Birmingham Corridors of Regen
TP: Eastside Technology Park Programme
Wobaston Road South Staffordshire
Stoke Merged Scheme.

Dietary Supplements

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role the Better Regulation Executive will play in monitoring consistency with the principles of good regulatory practice of the forthcoming proposed maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and whether the executive has been involved in discussions of the Working Groups of the Council of Ministers on these matters. [213449]

Mr. McFadden: The Food Standards Agency leads negotiations for the United Kingdom on this issue. It is developing the impact assessment on the setting of maximum and minimum permitted levels and will consult fully on European Commission proposals which are now expected in early 2009. The Better Regulation Executive continues to work with the agency to help them ensure the UK negotiating position is developed in line with better regulation principles.

Family Businesses

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the contribution of family businesses to the economy. [216502]

Mr. McFadden: The Department estimates that there are 3.3 million SME family businesses in the UK (74 per cent. of all SMEs), of which around 820,000 have employees. It is estimated that family businesses contribute around £860 billion in turnover and £230 billion in Gross Value Added to the UK economy (63 per cent. of the SME total contribution).

These estimates are based on the BERR Annual Small Business Survey 2006/07, the BERR SME Statistics for the UK 2006 and ONS Annual Business Inquiry 2005.

Furniture Industry: EU Grants and Loans

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons the furniture industry was not included on the list of industries eligible to receive EU structural funds in the UK. [216592]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: The rules governing the EU structural funds for 2007-13 do not require a list of eligible industries to be produced. The UK National Strategic Reference Framework, published in October 2006, sets out the Government's priorities for the funds in accordance with the European regulations governing their operation. These address key drivers of productivity and environmental and community sustainability, with environmental sustainability and equality as cross-cutting themes.

Within this framework, operational programmes have been drawn up for each fund by the relevant managing authorities to address their specific priorities. The programmes are available on:

England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):

http://www.erdf.communities.gov.uk/

North West:

http://www.erdfnw.co.uk/

Yorkshire and Humber:

http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/www/view.asp?content_id=7662&parent_id=17

North East:

http://www.onenortheast.co.uk/page/erdf/index.cfm

West Midlands:

http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/working-with-us/eu-structural-funds.aspx

East Midlands:

http://www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk/

East of England:

http://www.eeda.org.uk/erdf_3657.asp

South West:

http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/european-prog/european-programmes.shtm

London:

http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/nav.00100100300l

South East:

http://www.seeda.co.uk/work_in_the_region/european_initiatives/european_regional_development_fund/South_East_ERDF_Competitiveness_Programme/index.asp

England European Social Fund:

http://www.esf.gov.uk/

Scotland:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/support/17404/StructuralFunds2007-201

Lowlands and Uplands:

http://www.esep.co.uk/

Highlands and Islands:

http://www.hipp.org.uk/new/

Wales:

http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/default.asp?Lang=en

Northern Ireland:

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/european-funding

Minimum Wage: Publicity

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget for the Minimum Wage bus campaign is. [215494]

Mr. McFadden: The cost of the nine week national minimum wage outreach bus campaign was £249,000.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the *(a)* location and *(b)* date of each visit made by the Minimum Wage bus. [215495]

Mr. McFadden: The national minimum wage bus tour began on 9 January 2008 and ended on 9 March 2008. Locations visited during the nine week tour are as follows:

	Locations visited
9 January 2008	Walthamstow, Tower Hamlets, Hackney
10 January 2008	Stratford, East Ham
11 January 2008	Lewisham
12 January 2008	Peckham
16 January 2008	Erdington, Perry Barr, Oldbury
17 January 2008	Birmingham
18 January 2008	Small Heath
19 January 2008	Birmingham City Centre
23 January 2008	Blackburn
24 January 2008	Salford, Longsight, Wythenshaw
25 January 2008	Eccles, Harpurhey, Withington
26 January 2008	Manchester City Centre
30 January 2008	Nottingham
31 January 2008	Sutton in Ashfield, Mansfield
1 February 2008	Coventry
2 February 2008	Nottingham
6 February 2008	Barnsley
7 February 2008	Bradford
8 February 2008	Rotherham
9 February 2008	Sheffield City Centre, Handsworth
13 February 2008	Huyton
14 February 2008	Speke, Toxteth
15 February 2008	Kirkby, Walton
16 February 2008	Liverpool City Centre
18 February 2008	Newcastle City Centre
19 February 2008	Washington, Killingworth
20 February 2008	Easterhouse
21 February 2008	Tollcross, Parkhead, Clydebank
22 February 2008	Cathcart, Cambuslang
23 February 2008	Glasgow City Centre
27 February 2008	Fishponds, Redland, Filton
28 February 2008	Bristol City Centre
29 February 2008	Pontprennau, Newport, Caerphilly
1 March 2008	Cardiff City Centre
5 March 2008	Wood Green, Finsbury Park
6 March 2008	Edmonton, Tottenham, Stoke Newington
7 March 2008	Islington, Camden
8 March 2008	Brent Cross, Ealing, Willesden
9 March 2008	Bethnal Green

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which post offices in each parliamentary constituency were originally proposed for closure under the network change programme but have since been decided will not be closed; and what the reason for keeping each open is. [216515]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Hinton St. George

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate Post Office Ltd. has made of the net annual saving to it which will arise from the closure of Hinton St. George Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [215967]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Tourism

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside *(b)* North West, *(c)* North East, *(d)* South East and *(e)* South West Regional Development Agency spent on tourism support in each of the last five years. [215405]

Mr. McFadden: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding *(a)* the Core Cities Group and *(b)* the Thames Gateway London Partnership will receive from the regional development agencies in 2008-09. [215068]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

(a) None of the regional development agencies will be providing funding to the Core Cities Group in 2008-09.

(b) The LDA is providing £100,000 of funding for the Thames Gateway London Partnership to stage a series of 2012 Games promotional and engagement events and activities in the 10 TGLP boroughs in 2008-09. This is part of a broader general offer made to sub regional partnerships to raise awareness of the broader benefits of the games to all of London's diverse communities.

None of the other regional development agencies will be providing any funding to the Thames London Gateway Partnership in 2008-09.

Small Businesses

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of businesses are small businesses in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west and (d) England. [213799]

Mr. McFadden: At the start of 2007, there were 19,835 VAT-registered enterprises in Cornwall, of which 2,865 were in Falmouth and Camborne, 5,415 in North Cornwall, 3,900 in South East Cornwall, 3,765 in St. Ives, and 3,885 in Truro and St. Austell. In total there were 183,420 VAT-registered enterprises in the south-west region, and 1,670,500 in England. It is estimated that the majority (98 per cent.) of these will be small (0 to 49 employees).

Regional and national data are also available on a different basis, including estimates of businesses operating outside the VAT regime. At the start of 2005, there were 417,505 businesses in the south-west region and 99.4 per cent. (or 415,035) were small. There were a total of 3,775,015 businesses in England and 99.3 per cent. (3,747,150) were small.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses there were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [213600]

Mr. McFadden: Data are available for Cornwall from 1994 onwards. In Cornwall, there were 18,360 VAT-registered enterprises in 1994, 18,040 in 1995, 17,625 in 1996, 17,545 in 1997, 17,785 in 1998, 17,905 in 1999, 18,045 in 2000, 18,220 in 2001, 18,410 in 2002, 18,695 in 2003, 19,010 in 2004, 19,195 in 2005, 19,435 in 2006 and 19,835 in 2007 (start of each year). Data for each parliamentary constituency covering the period 1994 to 2007 will be placed in the House of Commons Library. It is estimated that the majority (98 per cent.) of these VAT-registered enterprises will be small (fewer than 50 employees).

Regional and national data are available for 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005, including estimates of businesses operating outside the VAT regime. In south-west region, there were 368,955 small businesses in 1998, 358,330 in 1999, 346,700 in 2001, 377,360 in 2003, and 415,035 in 2005. In England, there were 3,151,795 small businesses in 1998, 3,188,125 in 1999, 3,235,155 in 2001, 3,450,675 in 2003, and 3,747,150 in 2005.

Small Businesses: Postal Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of items of mail posted by *(a)* large companies, *(b)* domestic consumers and *(c)* small and medium-sized enterprises in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of market competition in the postal service on each category of user. [214141]

Mr. McFadden: In recognition of the changes that where taking place in the postal market, which include Royal Mail letter volumes falling by 2.1 per cent. in 2006-07 followed by a 3.2 per cent. fall in the mail volumes handled by Royal Mail in 2007-08, the Secretary of State announced an Independent Review of the Postal Sector on 17 December 2007. The review is looking at the impact of competition on all consumers (and Royal Mail and other postal operators), future trends in the market and how to maintain the universal postal service. The review published its "Initial Response to Evidence" on 6 May. The review is now considering possible solutions to the issues identified in its paper and will be reporting to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State later in the year.

Temporary Employment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the law on temporary and agency workers from representatives of the recruitment industry in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [215785]

Mr. McFadden: BERR officials are in regular contact with representatives of the recruitment industry and have received a number of representations on the law regarding temporary and agency workers. Most recently, BERR has received representations from the industry with regard to the recent political agreement on the EU agency workers directive.

I have had a number of meetings with representatives from the recruitment industry. Most recently I met industry representatives at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) One In A Million Awards annual event last month where I gave the keynote speech.

Trade Unions: Elections

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what method was used to compile the list of approved suppliers of electoral management services to the trades union sector in the Trade Union Ballots and Elections (Independent Scrutineer Qualifications) Order 1993 (Amendment) Order 2002; how regularly the list is reviewed; and what plans he has to review the order. [216977]

Mr. McFadden: The list was drawn up following a public competition, where applicants were interviewed and assessed against a set of published criteria. There are no statutory time limits for reviewing the lists. The last review took place about nine years after the preceding one. We have no immediate plans to undertake a further review.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215560]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the number and cost of domestic air flights within Great Britain from April 2007 to March 2008 by *(a)* the Department *(b)* agencies.

	Number of flights	*Total cost of flights (£)*
Department	120	18,644.22
Agencies	Nil	Nil

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* new capital investment and *(b)* refurbishment of property in each of the last 10 years, broken down by project. [212872]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) New Capital Investment

There has been no expenditure by the Department, excluding its Agencies and NDPBs, on the purchase of buildings within the last 10 years.

(b) Refurbishment of Property

The NIO does not record expenditure under the specific heading of refurbishment, and so to provide this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212006]

Mr. Woodward: The NIO maintains an occupational sick pay scheme. It is not possible to isolate these costs from other pay costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average sentence handed down by courts in Northern Ireland was for people convicted of motoring offences that resulted in a fatality in each of the last three years. [215008]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for motoring offences causing death.

Data cover the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number sentenced to immediate custody and average custodial sentence length (in months) for motoring offences causing death 2004-06

	Number sentenced to immediate custody	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
2004	10	34
2005	8	32
2006	12	42

Fuels: Prices

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect of the rising cost of fuel on front line police services; and if he will make good any shortfall of funds allocated for fuel. [215502]

Paul Goggins: Budgets will be closely monitored in order to ensure that pressures are addressed at an early stage. The rising cost of fuel will not affect the provision of front line police services.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [215658]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies do not subscribe to the *Morning Star* publication.

Prisons: Telephones

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what tariffs apply to telephone calls made by prisoners in each prison in Northern Ireland. [216817]

Paul Goggins: National calls are charged at a minimum fee of 10p, allowing 55 seconds, followed by 1p for every further 5.5 seconds (11p per minute) in all establishments. Calls to UK mobiles cost between 37.5 and 63p per minute depending on the time of day the call is made.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been prosecuted for benefit fraud on *(a)* more than one occasion and *(b)* more than two occasions in each of the last five years. [215003]

Paul Goggins: Data relating to prosecutions for benefit fraud in Northern Ireland are held by the Department of Social Development and information should be requested from that Department.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Leader of the House whether the Government will *(a)* provide evidence to and *(b)* co-operate with any inquiry undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life into hon. Members' allowances. [218009]

Helen Goodman: The Committee on Standards in Public Life have not announced any such inquiry. The Government will consider all requests for evidence when they are received.

Members: Pay

Harry Cohen: To ask the Leader of the House how much resettlement grant would be payable to each hon. Member if he or she left the House in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* May 2014 calculated on current salary levels under the terms of (i) the current resettlement grant scheme and (ii) the resettlement grant scheme proposed by the Members Estimate Committee in recommendation 15 in its Third Report of Session 2007-08 HC 578-I. [217173]

Ms Harman: The House agreed on 3 July 2008 to recommendation 15 of the Members Estimate Committee report (HC578). The intention is that from the general election after next the calculation of the amount of resettlement grant payable to hon. Members will alter to that set out in paragraph 252 of the report. Eligibility for the grant will remain as now.

The maximum resettlement grant of 100 per cent. of salary is currently payable to those aged between 55 and 64 with at least 15 years continuous service in the House. From the general election after next the maximum will be payable to those aged between 50 and 54 with at least 17 years service.

The overall change to the basis of the calculation is broadly cost neutral.

To provide information on all individual Members on the basis requested could be done only at disproportionate cost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what monitoring checks are in place to prevent search results on the parliament.uk website directing users to subscriber-only content; [217568]

(2) whether the parliament.uk website has been assessed to ensure that search results do not direct users to subscriber-only content. [217569]

Nick Harvey: The purpose of the parliamentary website is to inform the public of the work and role of Parliament and virtually all the material available on the site is content created by Parliament. However, in response to feedback from the public, the House also subscribes to two external services that add value for users of the site. These services provide a facility whereby members of the public can find out who their MP is by entering their postcode, obtain details of how to contact their Member, a link to their Member's website, where one is available, and a link to published biographical reference information about their Member. These services have proved very popular with over 650,000 searches carried out in 2007-08.

On 24 June a fault was detected by a member of the public who, when searching the site, was misdirected to the supplier's subscription information page rather than to the appropriate biographical reference data. This was the result of a technical error. The supplier was notified immediately and fixed the fault. Measures have since been put in place to prevent any recurrence of this problem in the future.

The website's search engine is configured only to index content on:

www.parliament.uk

and its associated sub-sites so no external content will be included in search results, other than the services described above. As a result of this incident, daily checks have been put in place to ensure that the information services on the website provided by third parties are operating correctly.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215559]

David Cairns: There were 546 individual domestic flights at a cost of £83,253 in 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215222]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Direct payments to special advisers were:

	£
1999-2000	2,054
2000-01	7,571
2001-02	13,183
2002-03	12,420
2003-04	15,756
2004-05	7,034
2005-06	5,903
2006-07	8,721
2007-08	12,369

Internet

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with telecommunication service providers on the upgrading of internet services to Scottish island communities; and what recent representations his Department has made to *(a)* BT and *(b)* other telecommunication service providers in Scotland on this matter. [217159]

David Cairns: I have been involved in discussions with my ministerial colleagues on a number of matters concerned with digital technologies and broadband availability in Scotland; however, broadband policy is a devolved matter, and as such lies with the Scottish Executive to take forward upgrading internet services to island communities.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the factual paper being prepared on the Barnett formula. [216898]

David Cairns: The Treasury's forthcoming Barnett formula paper will be factual in nature, reflecting experience of the operation of the Barnett formula since the formula was introduced.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will introduce measures to require local authorities to increase the provision of allotments in their areas; [217560]

(2) whether it is her policy to increase the overall acreage of allotments. [217562]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Department's policy that allotments should be provided in relation to local need.

Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide a sufficient number of allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Local authorities are best placed to determine the level of provision of allotments and all types of open space within their area, based on detailed audits and assessments of community needs in accordance with 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002'.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider introducing measures requiring local authorities *(a)* to keep figures on (i) the number of allotment sites in their areas and (ii) the length of waiting lists for an allotment and *(b)* to provide an annual return to Parliament incorporating such data. [217561]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are already responsible for maintaining information about their allotment sites, including figures on the number of sites available and the length of waiting lists.

The Secretary of State does not have any plans to ask local authorities to provide an annual return to Parliament on the number of allotments sites and the length of allotment waiting lists in their area. This would run counter to the commitment the Government have made in the 2006 Local Government White Paper, 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', to reduce the number of performance indicators against which local authorities must report to central Government under 200.

We are however currently developing a green space database which will provide us with a more comprehensive information base on green spaces, including allotments. The green space database will be available later this month.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider initiating an allotment survey with mandatory participation on the part of local authorities. [217563]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no plans to initiate an allotment survey.

The Department is developing a green space database which will provide us with a more comprehensive information base on green spaces, including allotments. This will be an interactive mapping tool which will bring together several datasets and provide the opportunity for local authorities, and other users, to access and input information on quality and provision of green space, including allotments. We believe that this is a better approach for local authorities than asking for mandatory participation in a survey. The green space database will be available later this month.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the formula which determines the number of allotments which local councils are required to provide for the use of local residents. [217564]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no precise formula to determine the number of allotments which local authorities provide for their residents. Instead, section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide a sufficient number of allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Furthermore 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002' encourages local authorities to make provision for all types of open space including allotments, and undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space and to establish standards for new provision and ascertain what is sufficient for their local area.

Given this framework, provided by statute and guidance, we do not have any plans to review how local authorities determine the number of allotments they provide for their residents.

Council House Transfers

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households lacking *(a)* one bedroom and *(b)* two or more bedrooms were registered for a housing transfer in each London local authority in 2007-08. [246666]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not available. However information is available on the bedroom requirement of households on local authorities' waiting lists, excluding existing local authority tenants seeking a transfer. This information is presented in the following table.

Households on the housing waiting list at 1 April 2007: London

Number of households

	Bedroom requirement of household				
Local authority	*One*	*Two*	*Three*	*More than three*	*All households*[1]
Barking and Dagenham	4,559	2,501	2,007	118	9,185
Barnet	9,091	5,612	2,622	584	17,909
Bexley	3,619	1,447	904	145	6,115
Brent	9,289	5,535	2,634	1,151	18,609
Bromley	2,438	1,118	621	250	4,427
Camden	7,251	1,616	849	660	10,442
City of London	1,000	207	133	4	1,344
Croydon	4,809	2,784	1,594	589	9,776
Ealing	10,828	5,514	3,003	1,308	20,653
Enfield	3,241	1,773	1,651	319	6,986
Greenwich	7,664	2,938	1,100	476	12,178
Hackney	4,642	2,386	1,184	353	8,565
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,558	2,314	746	414	8,104
Haringey	4,517	3,613	1,662	460	10,252
Harrow	1,688	1,582	1,151	547	4,968
Havering	3,155	1,569	684	72	5,480
Hillingdon	4,206	2,190	1,098	551	8,045
Hounslow	4,486	2,938	1,915	583	9,922
Islington	6,433	2,070	619	278	10,604
Kensington and Chelsea	7,086	2,232	847	177	10,342
Kingston upon Thames	2,984	1,577	774	281	5,616
Lambeth	8,613	3,694	1,740	448	14,495
Lewisham	8,394	5,241	3,153	1,000	19,850
Merton	3,269	1,439	914	263	5,885
Newham	11,636	7,502	3,752	1,269	24,159
Redbridge	5,193	3,748	1,960	501	11,402
Richmond upon Thames	2,699	1,157	597	123	4,576
Southwark	5,921	2,090	643	252	8,987
Sutton	2,126	1,150	705	117	4,121
Tower Hamlets	8,434	2,797	2,333	414	13,978
Waltham Forest	6,056	2,577	1,039	449	10,169
Wandsworth	4,603	2,532	1,087	473	8,695
Westminster	4,411	2,371	983	253	8,018

[1] Includes households with unspecified bedroom requirements.

East Midlands Development Agency

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the East Midlands Development Agency has spent on internal administration and running costs in each of the financial years for which figures are available. [214774]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows how much EMDA have spent on salary and administration.

		£000
	Salary costs	*Other administration*
2002-03	5,569	5,611
2003-04	6,851	6,027
2004-05	7,410	6,106
2005-06	9,023	6,779
2006-07	10,084	6,303
2007-08	11,237	6,316

Housing: Construction

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage of houses built in Chorley Borough in the last two years which are *(a)* affordable homes, *(b)* occupied on a part rent/part buy basis and *(c)* used as rented accommodation. [217843]

Mr. Iain Wright: There were 625 homes built in Chorley between 2005-06 and 2006-07, 11 per cent. of which were affordable dwellings.

Of these 34 (49 per cent.) were part rent/part buy and 35 (51 per cent.) were rented accommodation.

Housing: Disabled

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to improve housing for families with disabled children; what meetings Ministers and officials in her Department have held with representatives from Every Disabled Child Matters on the subject; and if she will make a statement. [217133]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2004 the Government launched a cross-departmental review of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme. As part of the review Bristol University were commissioned to carry out an independent study of the programme and make recommendations for change.

An immediate change as a result of the review was that means testing for children was ended in 2005. This removed the disincentive to work for parents, and ended the delay that is harmful to children's life chances and which helps to improve the health of both parents and children.

A consultation on proposals to change the programme was carried out between January and April and 2007. Over 250 organisations fed in their views on how the programme could be improved.

In February 2008 my Department published a Package of Changes which was laid before Parliament in April which included:

Maximum grant limit raised

The DFG ceiling was increased in May to £30,000 to help an increasing number of people (particularly children) with complex disabilities which has made the current ceiling inadequate in meeting the full costs of the required adaptations. This change will help speed up delivery of cases above the current maximum, which have often suffered delays due to obtaining the extra funding from another source. An increase also addresses the increased costs of carrying out DFG work.

Improvements to the means test

The means test will be changed so that working tax credit and child tax credit are disregarded as income. This change will help those working on low incomes (and in receipt of tax credits) with non disabled children. Those on council tax benefit, housing benefit and tax credits for those on low incomes are now passported through the means test process.

Access to garden

Access to garden was not an explicit grant usage, and not all authorities have used DFG to provide access to gardens. The regulations changed in May to ensure that access to gardens is a specific entitlement for grant, where reasonable and practicable. This change helps raise the quality of life for all people in receipt of DFG including families with disabled children.

Ongoing work to modernise the programme

Further work in the coming year will be carried out to improve the delivery of the programme with an overhaul of the means test and application form to help speed up the process. Other changes include the removal of the ring fence to increase flexibility in the provision of adaptations while continuing to ensure they are provided by retaining the mandatory nature of the grant.

CLG will continue to work with its stakeholders in helping to modernise the Disabled Facilities Grant programme. We are interested to hear from our stakeholders including Every Disabled Child Matters as to how the programme could be made to work more efficiently as a part of this ongoing process.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the availability of affordable housing in the Peak District National Park Authority area; and if she will make a statement; [216564]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to encourage increased provision of affordable housing in the Peak District National Park Authority area; and if she will make a statement; [216565]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on *(a)* the availability of affordable housing in the Peak District National Park Authority area and *(b)* future funding for the provision of rural housing enablers; and if she will make a statement. [216566]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) expects local planning authorities and regions to take a positive, plan-led approach to providing market and affordable housing in rural areas. In particular, it requires authorities to assess local need for affordable housing so that they can set appropriate targets for the amount of housing to be provided in their plans, including specifying the size and type of housing that, in their judgment, is likely to be required. It is the responsibility of the Peak District National Park Authority, as the local planning authority, to take this work forward.

It is recognised that many rural communities are faced by particular challenges in relation to housing affordability and that these challenges can be emphasised in areas such as the National Parks where land supply is constrained. That is why the Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor), to conduct a review on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing. The hon. Member will present his review to the Minister for Housing and Planning and the Secretary of State for Rural Affairs shortly.

In February we announced a national target for the Housing Corporation to deliver at least 10,300 affordable home completions in settlements of less than 3,000 inhabitants over the period 2008-11.

The work done by Rural Housing Enablers is funded in a wide variety of ways across the country. The clear vision for their long-term funding has always been that it should be supported at local level by the very local authorities and Housing Associations whose rural delivery they exist to support. I am pleased to note that in many areas across the country this is happening. Ultimately however, these are decisions for local delivery agents to take in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Housing: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to encourage the development of disused barns in rural areas for the purposes of residential provision, with particular reference to such barns in remote locations. [217662]

Mr. Iain Wright: The policy approach in Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) and Planning Policy Statement 7 "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" (PPS7) allows for the conversion of disused farm buildings such as barns for housing, in certain, suitable locations. Annex A of PPS7 advises that one of the circumstances in which isolated residential development may be justified is when accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and certain other full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work.

Local planning authorities should include appropriate policies in their local plans which will help deliver the amount of housing they need and decide where that housing should be located. It is for them to determine individual planning applications, such as those for the development of disused barns for new housing, in accordance with their local plans, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Land Ownership

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who owns the land to the rear of number 86 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, PR6 8TQ. [217815]

Mr. Iain Wright: Land ownership falls under the auspices of the Land Registry, who have the responsibility for registering title to land in England and Wales.

Initial inquiries of the Land Registry in Lancashire reveal that some of the land to the rear of the property in question is registered and some is unregistered—a more specific pinpointing of the exact location would therefore have to be made by my hon. Friend.

This request should be made directly to the Land Registry who are obliged to provide the information under the terms of their publication scheme.

Maps: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to establish a national geo-portal for spatial data held by public bodies; and whether the geo-portal will include cadastral data held by public bodies. [217853]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to establish a national geo-portal for spatial data held by public bodies.

Regional Planning and Development: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to facilitate greater cohesion between community strategies and planning strategies in rural areas, with particular reference to National Park areas. [217552]

Mr. Iain Wright: In June we published revised Planning Policy Statement 12 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities though Local Spatial Planning' setting out policy on local development frameworks. In particular, it states that

> "spatial planning objectives for local areas, as set out in the Local Development Framework, should be aligned not only with national and regional plans, but also with the shared local priorities set out in Sustainable Community Strategies where these are consistent with national and regional policy".

This applies to all local authorities in the country, whether they are rural (including National Parks) or urban.

Sheltered Housing

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the inclusion of extra-care sheltered housing in *(a)* C2 and *(b)* C3 planning use categories. [215428]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities can refer to "ODPM Circular 03/2005—Changes of Use of Buildings and Land" for guidance in relation to Class C2: Residential Institutions and Class C3: Dwelling Houses, of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).

It is for local planning authorities to determine to which class a particular premises belongs on the basis of fact and degree, and taking into account the particular circumstances of each case.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on the optimal size in terms of *(a)* area and *(b)* number of pitches of Traveller sites. [217826]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department published 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites, Good Practice Guidance' in May 2008. The guidance is not prescriptive, but includes information on the household possessions for which a pitch will need to cater, and notes the experience of site residents and managers that sites of up to 15 pitches provide a comfortable environment conducive to good management. The publication is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/designinggypsysites.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Secondment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures his Department uses to ensure equal opportunities in relation to staff secondments to the Department. [214669]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Secondments into the civil service to promote the exchange of ideas and experience are an exception to the principle that appointments to the civil service must be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. However in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport our current secondments have been made on the basis of fair and open competition.

Religious Buildings: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many places of worship applied for Heritage Lottery Fund grants in each year since 1997; and what percentage were successful in each year. [210254]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested, as provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*HLF applications received from religious organisations*	*Percentage of successful applications*
1997-98	528	38
1998-99	256	46
1999-2000	377	48
2000-01	358	55
2001-02	363	56
2002-03	877	44
2003-04	1,004	62
2004-05	1,061	68
2005-06	1,077	61
2006-07	996	63
2007-08	795	61

These figures include capital and non-capital projects. The percentage of successful applications in later years may change slightly once assessment of 53 outstanding applications is completed.

DEFENCE

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook Mk3 helicopters his Department plans to order in the next three years; and when such helicopters are expected to enter service. [216973]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have no plans to order any additional Chinook Mk3 helicopters in the next three years. We expect the eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters, currently being modified for support helicopter use, to enter service commencing late 2009.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's IT *(a)* systems and *(b)* services conform to the ISO 27001 standard. [216056]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence's IT systems and managed services are compliant with ISO 27001.

All in-service IT systems and managed services are designed and constructed to take full account of the Department's policies and procedures for information security management which have been confirmed to be fully compliant with the controls in ISO 27001. As part of the normal departmental review of procedures, these are continually checked against existing and new controls contained in ISO 27001.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216369]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD recognises the statutory right of its staff to request flexible working, which could involve authorised staff having access to MOD IT infrastructure from home. Currently, 11,316 staff have the facilities to access the IT infrastructure securely when working away from the Department. We do not have a precise number for those staff who work solely from home but the majority of these staff, who work flexibly, split their time between MOD offices, industry and home. Approximately a further 10,000 staff work externally to the Department and many are seconded to work with other organisations as liaison officers or as members of joint teams. Most of these staff do not need regular access to internal IT systems, but secure arrangements are being put in place for limited secure electronic access to employee 'self service' personnel administration systems, in some cases from their homes.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Force Answerable to EU (FAWEU) European military forces there are; what the title is of each; and how many British troops participate in each. [217266]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: FAWEU stood for 'Force Answerable to the Western European Union'. All the operational aspects of the Western European Union (WEU), including its capacity to plan and conduct crisis management operations, were transferred to the EU following the establishment of the European Security and Defence Policy in 1999. The only remaining active component is the WEU Parliamentary Assembly which provides collective inter-parliamentary oversight of European defence issues.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average number of *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual flying hours for aircraft was in each year since 2001; [216235]

(2) what the average number of *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual flying hours for the (i) Harrier GR7, (ii) Harrier GR9, (iii) Tornado GR4, (iv) Tornado F3 and (v) Typhoon aircraft was in each year since 2001. [216252]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no requirement to hold data on average flying hours. The planned and actual flying hours for fixed wing aircraft from all three services in each year since 2001 are broken down as follows:

		Financial Year						
		2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jaguar	Planned	12,543	12,996	13,260	11,247	9,156	3,576	0
	Actual	11,877	12,007	11,440	10,348	7,185	3,512	[1]500
Sea Harrier	Planned	5,633	6,219	6,219	4,491	1,980	Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	4,843	5,563	5,347	3,506	1,404	Out of service	Out of service
Harrier T8	Planned	925	925	925	925	463	Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	682	595	656	592	338	Out of service	Out of service
Harrier GR7/GR9/T10/T12	Planned	[1]15,282	[1]14,809	[1]15,424	[1]15,024	[1]13,890	[1]15,424	[1]14,550
Harrier GR 7	Actual	12,073	12,079	10,527	11,768	11,110	13,010(4)	13,231(4)
Harrier GR 9	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in Service	475	[4]	[4]
Harrier T10/T12	Actual	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	1,358	1,482	[4]	[4]
Tornado F3	Planned	24,193	23,022	26,406	22,026	18,805	17,114	13,704
	Actual	20,922	21,515	23,231	20,066	17,613	14,245	11,850
Tornado GR1/4	Planned	26,366	[1]26,058	29,044	28,600	26,438	28,260	28,279
	Actual	22,497	[1]25,908	29,017	26,766	28,071	30,518	26,984
Typhoon	Planned	Not in service	399	580	1,260	3,380	8,438	11,700
	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	345	2,160	4,713	8,518
Tristar	Planned	9,561	9,561	9,561	10,561	11,191	11,561	11,561
	Actual	10,824	10,603	8,879	8,657	7,693	8,398	9,008
VC10	Planned	11,550	11,550	11,550	10,550	9,920	9,550	9,550
	Actual	12,345	11,413	13,145	10,773	11,814	10,452	9,670
Bae 125	Planned	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,310
	Actual	2,403	2,526	2,553	2,414	2,393	2,391	2,636
Bae 146	Planned	1,080	1,080	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
	Actual	1,195	1,052	791	827	1,026	1,303	1,085
Hercules C1/3/4/5	Planned	36,709	37,458	37,458	34,958	34,958	34,958	34,958
	Actual	39,834	39,871	35,173	30,640	27,906	28,836	27,647
C17A	Planned	3,000	3,000	4,000	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
	Actual	3,377	5,745	5,592	5,727	6,375	7,087	6,921
JetstreamT2/T3	Planned	4,675	4,675	4,875	4,875	4,875	4,875	4,875
	Actual	3,752	3,865	4,129	4,402	4,085	4,339	4,583
Jetstream T1	Planned	5,851	5,854	5,867	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service

		Financial Year						
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	Actual	4,678	4,862	3,667	[6]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service
Canberra T4 & PR9	Planned	1,326	1,803	1,989	1,989	1,989	Out of service[9]	Out of service
	Actual	1,255	1,239	1,083	1,084	889	Not available[9]	Out of service
Islander AL1	Planned	[7]n/a	[7]n/a	[7]n/a	2,759	2,760	2,760	2,760
	Actual	2,228	2,302	2,396	2,112	1,908	1,857	1,621
Islander CC2	Planned	800	800	800	1,200	1,600	1,600	1,600
	Actual	945	890	952	908	1,563	1,609	1,519
Nimrod MR2	Planned	10,689	10,580	10,580	9,980	8,000	8,000	8,000
	Actual	11,042	10,387	10,759	10,898	8,060	6,882	6,634
Nimrod R1	Planned	1,743	1,250	1,915	1,915	1,915	1,915	1,915
	Actual	1,536	1,302	1,356	1,220	1,385	1,160	1,415
Sentry AEW1	Planned	4,446	4,134	4,134	4,586	4,898	5,210	4,785
	Actual	5,274	6,077	3,955	3,285	3,561	3,247	3,000
Sentinel R1	Planned	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	100	1,600	2,400	1,835
	Actual	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	Not in service	16	625
Dominie	Planned	5,448	5,425	5,275	5,275	4,650	4,150	4,150
	Actual	4,353	4,445	4,593	4,199	4,048	3,527	3,283
Hawk	Planned	31,745	32,382	32,362	27,022	25,997	28,278	22,480
	Actual	26,562	27,341	29,148	25,785	25,340	24,320	22,681
Tucano	Planned	25,706	25,578	25,248	16,500	14,660	16,385	14,855
	Actual	19,892	21,389	22,154	16,166	12,608	11,970	12,939
Bulldog	Planned	n/a	[8]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service
	Actual	403	[8]Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service	Out of service

[1] Jaguar withdrawn from service August 2007.

[2] Sea Harrier and Harrier T8 was withdrawn from service in 2006.

3. Harrier planned Figures are combined for Harrier GR7,GJA9andT10/2.

[4] Harrier actual Figures FY 06-07 & FY 07-08 are the combined totals for all Harrier variants GR7, GR9, T10/12.

[5] Harrier T10/12 figures before FY 04-05 are no longer available.

[6] Jetstream T1 was withdrawn from service in 2004-05.

[7] Islander AL1 planned figures are not available before FY 2004-05.

[8] Bulldog was withdrawn from service in 2002.

[9] Canberra PR9 and T4 were withdrawn from service by 2006.

All figures included in this table relate to in-service aircraft, and does not include any pre-service flying. Figures for each helicopter type are being provided by Land Forces in the answer to PQ 216251. Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF), Contracted aircraft, and gliders have not been included. The Harrier figures have been collated as a combined total after FY 2005-06, and therefore it is not possible to split them into separate figures for GR7 and GR9 as the information is not held in that format.

Military Bands: Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent on *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands in each year since 1997; [207258]

(2) how many engagements involving the recovery of costs have been undertaken by *(a)* military and *(b)* naval bands since 1997. [207260]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are currently collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member in due course.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Andrew Murrison:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 2 June 2008 (Official Report, column 688), about how much had been spent on military and naval bands in each year since 1997 and how many engagements involving the recovery of costs had been undertaken on military and naval bands for the same period.

For total expenditure on bands, data is only available for the Army since the formation of Regional Forces (from Financial Year 2003-04) and from Financial Year 2004-05 for the Navy. It has proven to be extremely difficult to obtain data going back to 1997 as you requested due to disbandments and amalgamations over a number of years and changes to financial structures and reporting. The data held is shown in the tables below:

Army band expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	31.47
2004-05	32.47
2005-06	32.80
2006-07	32.11
2007-08	33.12

Naval band expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	9.07
2005-06	9.44
2006-07	10.07
2007-08	10.79

RAF band expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
1997-98	5.32
1998-99	5.17
1999-2000	5.07
2000-01	4.93
2001-02	5.26
2002-03	5.57
2003-04	5.93
2004-05	5.88
2005-06	6.00
2006-07	6.16
2007-08	6.67

For band cost recoveries, data is available dating back to 1997 in some cases. There is a caveat in that some Army bands have reported complete data back to 1997 whereas others have only been able to do so for more recent years. This, again, is due to disbandments and amalgamations. The information held is shown in the tables below and reflects Category IV engagements which are events where the organiser is charged the full commercial musician rate and the service provided as a fee-paid event.

Army band recovered costs

	Number of engagements attracting recovered costs
1997	119
1998	103
1999	141
2000	509
2001	386
2002	391
2003	357
2004	400
2005	389
2006	383
2007	392

Naval band recovered costs

	Number of engagements attracting recovered costs
2006	2
2007	3
2008	2

RAF band recovered costs

	Number of engagements attracting recovered costs
1997	74
1998	67
1999	43
2000	40
2001	51
2002	40
2003	35
2004	28
2005	17
2006	31
2007	34

TRANSPORT

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what IT contracts her Departments and its agencies have entered into in the last two years. [215161]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A list has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing IT contracts entered into by the Department for Transport and its agencies in the last two complete financial years.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff have access to her Department's IT infrastructure at their home. [216385]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of staff in the Department and the agencies who have access to IT infrastructure at home is set out in the following table.

Department/agency	
Department for Transport (Central)	1,060 staff have remote access from encrypted departmental laptops to the DfT(C) IT infrastructure, including some at the Marine and the Rail Accident Investigation Branches. Separately, 43 staff in the Air Accident Investigation Branch have remote access to their own local IT system.
Highways Agency	379 staff have a remote access token enabling them to work from mobile locations, including their home address.
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	22 staff have encrypted laptops to access DVLA desktop facilities at home.
Driving Standards Agency	301 staff have access to DSA IT infrastructure at home, using agency owned equipment, over telephone lines and secure log in.
Vehicle Certification Agency	75 UK based staff and 15 staff at VCA overseas offices have IT access at home.
Vehicle Operator Standards Agency	About 1,000 staff have encrypted laptops to use away from the office including some home working. There is no dedicated fixed infrastructure at staff's homes.
Government Car and Despatch Agency	21 staff have access to the GCDA IT infrastructure at home.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	134 authorised staff have an ability to connect to the MCA IT system from home using officially sanctioned and issued devices.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many permanent staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [215567]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department and its agencies have recorded a figure of five of fewer occurrences of permanent staff (i) without posts and (ii) working as part of a people action team. In such instances our response is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Department in each of the last 10 years. [215237]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 under Machinery of Government changes. The amounts claimed by special advisers as reimbursable expenses in subsequent years are as follows:

	£
2003	6
2004	33.60
2005	184.60
2006	99.80
2007	47.23

Procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the Department's Staff Handbook, and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure coded as subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in accounting systems during the period June 2006 to May 2008 by the Department for Transport is recorded as:

	£
June 2006	21,439.33
July 2006	19,810.69
August 2006	21,665.96
September 2006	29,039.46
October 2006	26,916.13
November 2006	27,407.12
December 2006	22,669.72
January 2007	21,332.60
February 2007	20,123.93
March 2007	23,446.60
April 2007	19,435.86
May 2007	21,141.16
June 2007	27,873.18
July 2007	21,696.20
August 2007	20,030.59
September 2007	24,472.65
October 2007	22,796.02
November 2007	22,260.76
December 2007	41,300.49
January 2008	21,554.20
February 2008	26,145.51
March 2008	32,320.19
April 2008	17,372.11
May 2008	14,517.42
Total	566,767.88

The list excludes information from the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Driving Standards Agency which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The data used to complete the answer rely upon correct coding of expenditure by finance staff.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reviews of regulation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [215620]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regulation is routinely reviewed as part of the policy making process, including as part of simplifying regulation or preparing to consult on policy changes. The Department for Transport (DfT) Simplification Plan published in December 2007 lists over 80 proposals to simplify regulations. Since July 2007 DfT and its agencies have launched over 70 consultations. These cover the whole range of departmental responsibilities from local transport to aviation.

Current and closed consultations are available on the consultation page of the DfT website along with final impact assessments for policies that have an impact on business, the third sector and local government:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/

The revised impact assessment process, introduced from November 2007, includes a requirement to carry out a post-implementation review within three years of implementation of any policy that requires an impact assessment. Since the new format was introduced we have laid 19 impact assessments in the House Library with legislation.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215644]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At the Department's two main London HQ buildings CNN is received via Sky and Virgin Media (formerly NTL). Sky Sports is provided as an additional channel for Ministerial Drivers and is received via Sky. The total annual estimated cost in financial year 2007-08 was £9,357.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency subscribes to Sky at an annual cost in financial year 2007-08 of £775.

No other premium television channels are taken at other Department for Transport Executive Agencies.

Departmental Wastes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to reduce the volume of waste produced by it and sent to landfill in each of the last two years. [215887]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport, including its agencies, has reported the following waste figures for the last two years.

	Recycled	*Re-used*	*Energy from waste*	*Landfill*	*Total*
Waste (tonnes)					
2006-07	2,075.52	138.30	166.10	1,497.78	3,877.69
2007-08	1,920.78	43.94	137.78	1,492.43	3,594.92
Waste (percentage)					
2006-07	53.52	3.57	4.28	38.63	100.00
2007-08	53.43	1.22	3.83	41.51	100.00

The aforementioned information is derived from the Department for Transport Greening Operations and Sustainability returns for the period 2006-08.

The Department for Transport has reduced the volume of waste going to landfill in each of the last two years. Total waste arisings have fallen by 19.8 per cent. since the baseline year (2004-05) of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate waste target. This has been as a result of the introduction of effective waste streaming programmes in the majority of the Department's main offices. Waste streaming has resulted in numerous new recycling initiatives being introduced, including CDs, plastic bottles, glass, food waste, furniture, spectacles, fluorescent tubes, cardboard, batteries, cooking oil and mobile phones. The Department has also introduced new initiatives such as duplex printing to reduce paper consumption and subsequent waste, think before you print campaigns so that only essential items are printed, and an IT re-use contract which results in old IT equipment being collected, refurbished and then externally re-used. In addition the Department has worked with its suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging associated with deliveries.

Driving Tests: Closures

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the revenue to be raised by her Department from the sale of *(a)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) test stations and *(b)* the Driving Standards Agency; and if she will place in the Library a list of the (i) VOSA test stations and (ii) DSA test centres due for closure. [217150]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: The VOSA has 89 test stations, 71 of which are full-time. The current net value asset of VOSA's test stations is £98,000,000. There are currently no VOSA test stations due for closure however. I refer the hon. Member to my statement to the House of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 62WS, that stated that the principle for VOSA's testing stations in the future would be "fewer but better". The aim is to quickly identify those sites for which there is a continuing requirement and to develop more detailed and timetabled plans for these changes by the autumn.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has £600,000 profiled as a capital receipt from the sale of driving test centres to be received within the next 12 months.

A list of the 54 driving test centres that DSA plans to close has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next plans to meet Network Rail to discuss the performance of the *(a)* track and *(b)* trains on the East Coast Main Line. [217278]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials in the Department for Transport meet Network Rail every four weeks to discuss rail performance and this meeting is normally chaired at ministerial level. As a key intercity route, all aspects of performance on the route are discussed.

First Great Western

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many weekends First Great Western rescheduled trains along the Gloucester to Swindon line for all or part of the weekend in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2007-08 and *(e)* 2008. [218003]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The hon. Member should contact First Great Western directly at the following address:

Andrew Haines
Chief Operating Officer
First Great Western
Milford House
1 Milford Street
Swindon
SN1 1HL

Freight Facilities Grant

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to increase the availability and accessibility of the Freight Facilities Grant to potential applicants. [217950]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has recently announced a budget for the Freight Facilities Grant in the amount of £21 million over the next three years which should give potential applicants some assurance over the future availability of funding.

We will also shortly be running a campaign to publicise the FFG scheme to encourage more applications. A new leaflet has been produced, which will be mailshot to potential applicants and the new Freight Best Practice contract which was awarded to Faber Maunsel on 1 July 2008, will require them to market grants direct to businesses.

We are also looking at ways to simplify the application process including a redesign of the application form to make it easier to use to encourage more companies to apply for grants.

M3: Surrey

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily volume of traffic *(a)* on the M3 motorway between junctions (i) 4 and 4A and (ii) 4A and 5 and *(b)* entering and leaving the M3 at junctions 4, 4A and 5 was in each of the last 10 years. [217328]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table shows the average daily volume of traffic *(a)* on the M3 motorway between junctions (i) 4 and 4A and (ii) 4A and 5 in each of the last 10 years

	J4A-4 London bound	*J4-4A coast bound*	*J5-4A London bound*	*J4-5 coast bound*
1998	50,000	51,300	44,900	44,800
1999	51,000	50,800	45,900	45,200
2000	50,000	50,000	46,000	45,900
2001	51,700	51,500	47,000	47,000
2002	53,200	53,000	42,400	47,000
2003	54,900	54,900	47,800	47,200
2004	52,800	52,300	47,500	46,800
2005	53,200	52,500	47,500	47,300
2006	54,400	54,600	48,600	46,200
2007	54,900	54,700	48,900	48,500

(b) Information on traffic entering and leaving the M3 at junctions 4, 4A and 5 is only available since 2005, when automatic traffic counting sites were established. The following tables show the record of average traffic flows entering and leaving junctions 4, 4A and 5 of the M3 motorway since 2005.

	Entering junction 4 London bound	*Exiting junction 4 London bound*	*Entering junction 4 coast bound*	*Exiting junction 4 coast bound*
2005	17,900	12,100	10,500	15,400
2006	10,600	12,100	12,100	16,400
2007	13,300	10,600	8,100	16,700

	Entering junction 4A London bound	*Exiting junction 4A London bound*	*Entering junction 4A coast bound*	*Exiting junction 4A coast bound*
2005	11,000	4,300	3,600	9,700
2006	11,300	4,300	2,700	10,000
2007	11,200	4,300	4,400	10,000

	Entering junction 5 London bound (Main NB 4 to 4a minus within J5)	Entering junction 5 London bound	Entering junction 5 coast bound (Main SB 5 - 6 minus within J5)	Exiting junction 5 coast bound
2005	5,600	7,600	7,900	4,900
2006	5,800	7,700	11,700	4,900
2007	6,000	7,800	6,300	4,900

Railways: Luton Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on local communities of the decision to discontinue through train services from Tulse Hill and Herne Hill stations to *(a)* Luton Airport and *(b)* Bedford. [217148]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: Network Rail's South London Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), which was published in March 2008, concluded that, when the Thameslink Project is completed in December 2015, it will not be operationally robust for services from the Herne Hill direction to run north of Blackfriars.

However, there is a great deal more to be done by way of assessments of options and modelling work before this conclusion is confirmed.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in the development of a successor to British Rail Class 43 Power Units and associated C3 rolling stock in the last 12 months. [217719]

Mr. Tom Harris: The IEP (Intercity Express Programme) is progressing to schedule, and significant progress has been made over the last 12 months. A notice was placed in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) in March 2007. From the responses, companies were selected as suitable bidders, and an invitation to tender was issued in November 2007. The bids from manufacturers in response to this invitation to tender were received last week. Detailed assessment of these bids will now be undertaken and it is hoped that the successful bidder will be announced in 2009.

Railways: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of reopening rural railway lines on tourism and the wider economy in rural areas; [217829]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions of reopening rural railway lines. [217830]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government's priorities for the rail network were set out in the White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" in July 2007. This recognised the economic and social benefits of regional and rural lines but did not envisage reopening any lines in the period to 2014. For this reason, the Government have not sponsored work on the benefits of reopening rural rail routes.

The Government are aware of locally sponsored work in a number of areas and would be willing to consider reopenings when they offer good value and can be funded.

In line with Government appraisal requirements, we would expect any work on a reopening to assess the consequent environmental impacts including the effect on carbon dioxide emissions and the wider economic impacts including impacts on tourism where appropriate.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has allocated to fund the transport advice element of *(a)* the green homes project and *(b)* the Act on CO2 advice line for 2008-09. [217244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has allocated £1 million of funding in 2008-09 for the Energy Saving Trust's (EST) transport consumer advice programme (which supports advice taken from the motoring strand of the Government's ACT ON CO_2 campaign). This advice is delivered via the EST advice centres and green homes project.

The Department has separately allocated £5 million in 2008-09 for the motoring strands of the ACT ON CO_2 marketing campaign, to provide drivers with tips and advice on how to reduce their fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions and purchase more fuel efficient new cars. This is primarily delivered via radio and TV advertising, website advice (including car rankings in association with WhatCar?), partnership marketing and, later this month, direct engagement with the public at the British Motorshow.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the maximum *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash deduction from a benefit payment for a failure to pay council tax is; and if he will make a statement; [216064]

(2) what the average deduction made from benefits was in respect of claimants who had not paid their council tax in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216065]

Mr. Plaskitt: For income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and pension credit, the prescribed amount that can be deducted for council tax arrears is 5 per cent. of the personal allowance for a single person aged 25 or over; currently £3.05.

For contribution-based jobseeker's allowance, where if it were not in payment there would be entitlement to income-based jobseeker's allowance of at least the same rate, the prescribed amount is 5 per cent. of the personal allowance for a single person aged 25 or over; currently £3.05. Where there would not be an underlying entitlement to income-based jobseeker's allowance, the prescribed amount is one third of the appropriate age related amount, rounded down to the nearest penny.

The average weekly deduction for council tax is in the following table.

Average weekly deductions for council tax from benefits as at August each year: in Great Britain

£

	Income support	*Pension credit*	*Jobseeker's allowance*
2002	2.69	—	2.70
2003	2.73	—	2.75
2004	2.78	2.78	2.79
2005	2.83	2.84	2.85
2006	2.89	2.88	2.90
2007	2.98	2.97	2.99

Notes:

1. Amounts are rounded to the nearest penny.
2. Pension credit replaced income support minimum income guarantee on 6 October 2003.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate five per cent. sample.

Crisis Loans

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [214966]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is in the following table.

Crisis loan applications in Great Britain

	Average actual clearance time (working days)
2003-04	1.3
2004-05	1.3
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.7

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual crisis loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual crisis loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each year, not on applications received during that year.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Debts

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist benefit recipients with personal debt management. [217036]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP advisers provide benefit recipients with impartial information and guidance, signposting customers to free face-to-face money advice (offered by Citizens Advice and other money advice organisations) where this is appropriate.

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) fund the face-to-face debt advice project, employing around 500 debt advisers, that is targeted at geographical areas and/or social groups both characterised by high financial exclusion. This will include benefit recipients.

Employment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the link between a productive working life and health in the formulation of policy; and what assessment he has made of the effects on public health of a mandatory retirement age. [213606]

Mrs. McGuire: We commissioned an independent evidence review of the links between health and work. Published in 2006, the 'Is work good for your health and well-being?' evidence review highlighted the positive links between health and work. This evidence has helped shape the Health Work and Well-being Strategy, a cross-government initiative which includes this Department, the Department of Health, the Health and Safety Executive and the health departments of the devolved administrations, which seeks to help people who have a health condition or disability remain in or quickly return to work. One result of the strategy was the commissioning of Dame Carol Black, National Director for Health and Work, to carry out a review of the health of the working age population. The review, 'Working for a healthier tomorrow' was published in March and highlighted the challenges around health and productive working lives. The Government are currently considering Dame Carol's recommendations and will respond formally in the autumn.

There is no national mandatory retirement age. In October 2006, the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations introduced a default retirement age of 65 and gave people the right to request the option of working longer. Employers do not have to use the default age of 65. They can choose a higher age, or remove their retirement age altogether. Some, including this Department, have chosen not to have a compulsory retirement age.

Government policy is to encourage individuals to continue in employment as long as they choose to do so and are capable of meeting the requirements of their employment which will include consideration of any health issues. Research shows that the three main reasons given by older people for working after state pension age are because they enjoy their job/working; they want to improve their finances and they want to keep fit and active. Giving people the choice to work up to and beyond state pension age is critical to ensuring the economic prosperity of our society in terms of health, work and pensions.

Our Age Positive initiative promotes to employers the business benefits of employing older people as part of a mixed age workforce and seeks to change the outmoded ageist views that some employers still have. Research indicates that generally there is no reduction in productivity in most jobs before the age of 70. Individuals are free to choose to retire where they have health concerns.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of those eligible for assistance under the Financial Assistance Scheme have received such assistance; and if he will make a statement. [216552]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 27 June 2008, 6,350 people are receiving payments from FAS. A further 1,001 have been assessed and will be paid as soon as they confirm their personal details.

Of the 715 schemes currently qualified for FAS, trustees in 511 (71 per cent.) have provided information on eligible members. We continue to work urgently with trustees and administrators to obtain data on any eligible members in the remaining schemes.

We expect that up to 160 additional schemes will became eligible once the regulations currently before Parliament come into force. We are working with trustees in these schemes to progress their qualification as quickly as possible.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1), how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* food and *(b)* food of British origin in each of the last five years; [214877]

(2) from which five countries of origin the greatest amount of food was procured by his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* quantity procured was in each case. [214878]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of expenditure by the Department on food, and food of British origin, is only held for the last three complete years and is provided in the following table. The Department's spend on food is solely that required to provide hospitality for meetings and purchased through the Contract with Land Securities Trillium. It does not reflect local expenditure on food as the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information for the two years prior to 2005 and in relation to the cost and quantity of food purchased in relation to country of origin is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£million

	Total expenditure on food	*Expenditure on food of British origin*
2005	0.86	0.22
2006	0.91	0.26
2007	1.05	0.37

In 2007, DEFRA published a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The report is published on the PSFPI website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf

DEFRA proposes again to publish data by the end of 2008 on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments. This report will include the value of contracts let for food and catering contracts (including the value of food provided under the catering contracts) which should allow calculations to be made. It will not however identify countries of origin.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Voluntary Work

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice Jobcentre Plus officers give to jobseeker's allowance claimants on their freedom to undertake in volunteering activities whilst claiming benefits. [215930]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 July 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what advice Jobcentre Plus officers give to Jobseeker's Allowance claimants on their freedom to partake in volunteering activities while claiming benefits. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Voluntary activity can play an important part in helping unemployed people keep in touch with the labour market and obtain the confidence, skills and experience that may be of benefit in terms of helping them into work. People of working age in receipt of all benefits are not limited in how much voluntary work they do, so long as they continue to meet the usual entitlement conditions.

Turning more specifically to Jobseeker's Allowance and customers interested in volunteering or currently participating at the time of claiming benefit, we provide information, advice and guidance on the benefits in terms of finding work; and about the special provisions in place to help facilitate participation while maintaining entitlement to benefit. For example:

unlike the majority of jobseekers who must be immediately available for an interview and for full-time employment, people who are volunteers must be able to attend an interview at 48 hours notice and, if successful, start work within one week; and

volunteers should neither gain nor lose financially as a result of their volunteering, so money paid to refund expenses incurred or expected to be incurred through volunteering, e.g. travel costs, meals, cost of child care, special clothing and overnight accommodation, will be disregarded for benefit purposes.

Further information is in the leaflet 'Volunteering While Unemployed Helps Others and Can Help You', which is available through Jobcentres and is currently being updated; and the DWP publication 'A Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits', which is available at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/va1-2006.pdf.

I hope this information is helpful.

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1283W, on national insurance, what proportion of national insurance registrations were held by *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals in each year since 1987. [205865]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information on adult foreign national registrations and total national insurance number registrations is not produced on the same basis. It is not therefore possible to provide an exact proportion of the total number of registrations held by EU and non-EU nationals.

For the available information on the total national insurance number registrations, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W.

Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average level of pay of those moving off benefits into 100 per cent. commission jobs in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [215348]

Mr. Plaskitt: I will let the hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from James Plaskitt to Frank Field:

The information is not available.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants have been granted by Jobcentre Plus to people in (i) each Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) each region of the UK in each month since October 2003; and if he will make a statement. [214918]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Fund: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of staff that will be employed in running the Social Fund, broken down by site and scheme, in each month until December 2009; and if he will make a statement; [215983]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of staff to be employed to process *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants in each month until December 2009, broken down by location of employment; and if he will make a statement. [216053]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions on what estimate he has made of the number of staff that will be employed in running the Social Fund, broken down by site and scheme, in each month until December 2009; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff to be employed to process (a) crisis loans, (b) budgeting loans and (c) community care grants in each month until December 2009, broken down by location of employment. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It is not possible to provide site deployment information in the format requested. Future staffing levels will depend on workloads and available resources.

At the start of this operational year we employed:

1,100 staff on Crisis Loans,

548 on Budgeting Loans,

530 on Community Care Grant work,

168 on Sure Start Maternity Grants and

125 on Funeral Payments within Benefit Delivery Centres.

There are approximately 200 Crisis Loans Decision Makers employed in Jobcentres in London.

In addition we have trained and deployed an extra 185 Contact Centre staff as Crisis Loans Decision Makers and intend to train a further 460 staff before December 2008. Many of these staff are trained on more than one element of the Social Fund and in the course of a working day will work on different elements depending on that day's workload.

I hope this information is helpful.

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claimed benefits were dealt with through *(a)* benefit call centres, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus offices, *(c)* by home appointment, *(d)* via the internet and *(e)* other (i) in total and (ii) broken down by type of benefit in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [215894]

(2) how many and what proportion of applications for each type of claimed benefit delivery were dealt with *(a)* through benefit call centres, *(b)* through Jobcentre Plus offices, *(c)* by home appointment, *(d)* over the internet and *(e)* by another means in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [216981]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available as we do not collect information centrally on the number or proportion of benefit claims dealt with through different channels.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of calls to benefit delivery centres were *(a)* answered by an operator, *(b)* discontinued before being answered by an operator and *(c)* answered by an operator within (i) one minute, (ii) five minutes and (iii) 10 minutes of calling in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [215754]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 July 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on how many and what proportion of calls to benefit delivery centres were (a) answered, (b) discontinued before being answered by an operator and (c) answered by an operator within (i) one minute, (ii) five minutes and (iii) 10 minutes of calling in the latest period for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information you have requested is not currently available because the Management Information on telephony performance for Benefit Delivery Centres is limited. An enhanced telephone service with improved Management Information will be implemented in Benefit Delivery Centres by the end of this operational year.

Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 578-9W, on winter fuel payments, how much was spent on winter fuel payments to pensioners living in each country outside the UK in each year since the payment was introduced. [194665]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1414W, and on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 578-79W, to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has received on the proposal to ban the use of great apes for experimental and other scientific purposes in the proposed revision of Directive 86/609 EEC; and if she will make a statement. [217219]

Meg Hillier: We have received 110 letters from the general public asking the Government to support EU Written Declaration 40/2007, which urges the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament to use the revision of Directive 86/609/EC as an opportunity to make ending the use of apes in scientific experiments an urgent priority. Great apes have never been used as laboratory animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and in 1997 we gave a commitment that we will not allow their use in the future. This remains our position.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to encourage local communities to get involved in tackling antisocial behaviour. [217645]

Mr. Coaker: We encourage local communities to get involved in tackling antisocial behaviour by asking them to report incidents of antisocial behaviour to local agencies such as the police and local authorities. Since April 2008 there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area. These teams are now increasing their focus on working with local communities to identify and tackle local problems together, while continuing to provide high visibility policing, reducing antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime. It is the partnership between local people and local agencies that helps make the real difference in freeing areas from problem behaviour. We also announced plans to better engage communities in the fight against crime on 18 June following the review by Louise Casey "Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime". Louise Casey is taking on the role of

Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Adviser and will work to improve neighbourhood policing across the country.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the use of mosquito devices by police forces. [218378]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold any information on the use of mosquito dispersal devices by police forces.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of mosquito dispersal devices that have been supplied to each *(a)* police force and *(b)* local authority in the last 12 months; and which (i) police forces and (ii) local authorities have deployed mosquito devices in that period. [217023]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the use of mosquito dispersal devices is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been solved using the DNA database where the perpetrators were not previously convicted persons. [212265]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Information on the number of crimes that have been detected using DNA subject sample profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken from persons with no previous convictions is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The NDNAD holds DNA profiles taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence but does not hold data on their criminal histories; this information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Some research information is, however, available on the number of DNA profiles taken from those arrested but not charged and from those arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, thus providing the police with an intelligence link on the possible identity of the offender and assisting in the detection of crimes. In April 2004, an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to take and retain DNA and fingerprints from persons who had been arrested for a recordable offence. In the period April 2004 to December 2005, the retention of DNA profiles of arrested persons who had not been charged or proceeded against had resulted in matches with crime scene profiles from over 3,000 offences including 37 murders, 16 attempted murders and 90 rapes.

In May 2001, an amendment to PACE 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to retain DNA samples taken from persons who had been charged but not convicted of an offence. In the period May 2001 to December 2005, an estimated 200,000 DNA samples taken from people charged with offences had been retained on the NDNAD, which would previously have had to be removed because of the absence of a conviction. From these, approximately 8,500 profiles of individuals have been linked with crime scene profiles, involving nearly 14,000 offences. These offences included 114 murders, 55 attempted murders, 116 rapes, 68 sexual offences, 119 aggravated burglaries and 127 of the supply of controlled drugs.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Government databases are protected in the same manner as that designed to protect the National Identity Register. [202758]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Register will be highly protected—to the same level as some military databases. The security protections around the Register, both technical and physical, are being designed to meet the specific requirements of the National Identity Register so cannot be compared effectively to those in place for other Government databases.

It will also be protected by provisions in the Identity Cards Act, Official Secrets Act, Computer Misuse Act and Data Protection Act, bringing penalties, including criminal sanctions, against anyone interfering with the Register.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department expects the results of Operation Pentameter 2 to be fully analysed; and if she will publish those elements of the findings that will not prejudice or hinder the police and other law enforcement operations in human trafficking operations. [214539]

Mr. Coaker: We announced the results of Operation Pentameter 2 on 2 July. All the lessons learned, good practice identified and operational opportunities will be taken forward by the UKHTC as part of its ongoing work as a central point for the development of expertise and operational co-ordination in relation to the trafficking of human beings.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the children found during Pentameter 2 have been provided with guardians. [217966]

Mr. Coaker: None of the children found during Operation Pentameter 2 have been provided with guardians, but for the duration of the operation the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) provided an advocacy service to assist police and local authorities to ensure that the children were safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

Hunting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department monitors levels of compliance with provisions of the Hunting Act 2004. [217262]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not monitor levels of compliance with provisions of the Hunting Act 2004 but information collected centrally indicates that in 2005 and 2006, 14 people were proceeded against in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of compliance with the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004 in respect of *(a)* fox hunting, *(b)* hare coursing and *(c)* deer hunting. [217263]

Mr. Coaker: Responding to incidents of law breaking is an operational matter for Chief Officers of Police. Information collected centrally indicates that in 2005 and 2006 14 people were proceeded against in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004.

Identity Cards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made on implementation of the recommendations of the Science and Technology Committee in its Sixth Report, Session 2005-06, on identity card technologies: scientific advice, risk and evidence (HC 1032), which were accepted by the Government, with particular reference to recommendation 10 on the establishment of an Information Communications and Technology Assurance Committee consisting of academies and industry experts. [202448]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 29 April 2008]*: The Home Office produced a response outlining the actions undertaken following recommendations from the Science and Technology Select Committee last year. This response is reproduced in the committee's final report (p. Ev15, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee: The Last Report (Thirteenth Report of Session 2006-07), HC 1108) and may be found at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmsctech/1108/1108.pdf.

In order to make assuring the work of delivering the National Identity Scheme as effective as possible, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) reviewed the assurance structures in place and, rather than establish a new assurance body, broadened the remit of the Independent Scheme Assurance Panel (ISAP), to include information communications and technology.

Evidence of a robust assurance function can be seen in the 2007 annual reports of the ISAP and the Biometrics Assurance Group published on the IPS website

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-general.asp.

Identity Cards: Fingerprints

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to use identity cards to enforce age-based restrictions on access to products and services. [210839]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published on 6 March 2008 set out our plans for issuing and the use of identity cards.

The scheme will provide a comprehensive and secure way of recording basic personal identity information, such as date of birth, storing it and making it possible for people to be able to prove their identity when necessary. As such, the identity card can be a useful tool to help those selling age-restricted goods meet their obligations.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her policy is on the establishment of a common EU format for residence permits for third country nationals; [216650]

(2) what biometric data will be included in UK documentation under the terms of Council Regulation (EC) No 380/2008 on residence permits; [216651]

(3) what EU *(a)* legislation and *(b)* proposed legislation falling within her Department's responsibilities requires personal documentation to include biometric data. [216652]

Meg Hillier: Under the UK Border Act 2007, we will be rolling out identity cards for foreign nationals from 25 November 2008, initially to some categories of those subject to immigration control who are granted limited leave to remain, including: certain types of students, spouses, civil partners and unmarried couples under the immigration rules. Over time, this card will replace existing forms of immigration documents and stamps which we currently issue to foreign nationals staying in the UK for over six months.

Identity cards for foreign nationals will enable the UK to comply with EC regulation 380/2008 which requires residence permits to be issued in a uniform format in the form of a card that contains an embedded chip that stores biometric features of the holder. The biometric information held on the card will be the holder's photograph and two fingerprints.

EU Regulation 2252/2004 requires the future inclusion of fingerprint biometrics in passports, and is binding on those member states who are part of the Schengen area. However the UK Government intend to match the EU standards for the introduction of fingerprint biometrics into passports to maintain the reputation and integrity of the British passport. Doing so ensures that UK passports will not be seen as "second-class" among other countries which could lead to increased attempts at fraud and lead to more onerous checks of UK passports abroad, causing delays and inconvenience to travellers.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Manpower: Legal Profession

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost to the Government Equalities Office has been of legal staff working for the Office since its creation. [201422]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then, and up to 31 May 2008, the last billing point, the cost of legal staff has been £520,811.

Departmental Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the average number of days taken as sick leave in the Government Equalities Office was in each month since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [213205]

Barbara Follett: Until the Government Equalities Office agrees its own set of terms and conditions its staff are on loan from other Departments and any detailed data on sick leave taken by them is monitored by the Human Resources sections of these Departments. The average number of working days lost to sickness in the two Departments, Communities and Local Government and Work and Pensions, from which most of GEO's staff are drawn, are 6.8 and 9.8 respectively. 71 per cent. of GEO's staff are on loan from CLG and 20 per cent from DWP.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels the Government Equalities Office subscribes; and at what yearly cost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [215655]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office does not currently subscribe to any premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels.

Equal Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, on equal pay, when her Department will conduct an equal pay audit in 2008. [202549]

Barbara Follett: As I said in my answer of 10 January 2008, the Government Equalities Office will be conducting its first equal pay audit in 2008. This will be done as soon as the work to determine a single set of terms and conditions for the recently established GEO's staff members, (who have been drawn from a number of different Departments with a variety of employment terms and conditions) has been completed.

Equality: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to bring forward proposals to address the gender pay gap. [202973]

Barbara Follett: The Government are already taking action to address the gender pay gap and, following the recommendations of the independent Women and Work Commission, this work includes:

(i) Preventing and tackling discrimination in education, training and in the workplace.

(ii) Supporting people in their efforts to combine work and family life, particularly caring for children or for older or disabled relatives.

(iii) Challenging and addressing attitudes about work and learning that underestimate the ability, achievement or potential of women and girls.

(iv) Providing the opportunities for women to get the training and qualifications they need.

In addition, the Government plan to:

(i) Introduce an Equality Bill during this parliament. The Bill will contain measures to allow positive action and increase transparency around pay and pay gaps.

(ii) Extend the right to request flexible working to parents of children up to 16 years of age.

(iii) Launch a Gender Equality Checklist to help organisations identify possible gender equality issues.

(iv) Continue to increase the provision of extended schools and children's centres.

(v) Give a new right to fathers to take up to 26 weeks additional paternity leave before their child's first birthday, thus helping mothers to return to work early if they wish.

(vi) Invest an extra £9 million a year for three years in the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiatives announced in March 2008. These provide training and support for participants to get a new job, progress their career or increase their pay.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government (*a*) are taking and (*b*) plans to take to tackle female genital mutilation. [210934]

Barbara Follett: The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out female genital mutilation (FGM) abroad, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad, even where the practice is legal. The Government's long-term approach is to educate the practising communities about the dangers of FGM and persuade them to abandon the practice. We are doing this in a number of ways, for example:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are working to reduce the prevalence of FGM with the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

The Department of Health has funded £20,214 for an FGM prevalence study, £30,761 for the development of a FGM DVD for health professionals, and funding to the specialist organisation, the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), including core funding of £42,000 in 2005-06, £35,000 in 2006-07 and £30,000 in 2007-08.

The Home Office will soon set up a national Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) working group of Government, statutory agencies and the third sector that will promote a partnership approach to a range of issues including FGM. It is envisaged that the group will identify and develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees: Diseases

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1324W, on bees, what steps his Department is taking to investigate bee colony losses; and how and by whom the bee colony losses are being investigated. [217004]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientists and inspectors at the National Bee Unit (NBU) are monitoring the situation and maintain contact with experts in the USA and in Europe to learn about developments in bee colony losses.

This year, the situation is still emerging as more inspections are completed but there have been some significant losses in the UK. If beekeepers report significant losses in England and Wales to the NBU for which there is no ready explanation (such as poor Varroa management or poor husbandry) they will be investigated as a high priority.

The proportion of colonies so far found dead is slightly higher for 2008 than it was for the equivalent period in 2007. £90,000 of additional funds has been allocated to the NBU to expand investigations started last year under a horizon scanning project into significant losses and to meet the demand for increased inspections of bee imports consequential to the colony losses.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the (*a*) National Bee Unit and (*b*) Bee Inspectorate in (i) maintaining bee populations, (ii) managing incidents of bee diseases and (iii) preventing future outbreaks of bee diseases; and if he make a statement. [217015]

Jonathan Shaw: The Bee Inspectorate is part of the National Bee Unit (NBU). The NBU is part of the Central Science Laboratory which in September 2006 underwent a full-scale independent audit, as required under the Government's Science Audit programme, to ensure it is delivering science of the highest quality. The audit team produced a full report for DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser which noted that the NBU was

> "arguably the most distinguished bee diagnostics and bee health delivery group in the world".

The NBU operates a statutory inspection programme for notifiable diseases and pests, and provides a comprehensive training and education programme for beekeepers to enable them to become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry. In 2007, beekeepers benefited from more than 26,000 colony inspections and an extensive programme of training, including over 600 technical events, delivered by the NBU to help them improve disease control through good apiary management.

A contingency plan has also been developed, in consultation with stakeholders, to deal with the potential threat from exotic pests.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of threat posed to bee populations in the UK by disease; and if he will make a statement. [217016]

Jonathan Shaw: The bee populations in the UK are subject to various threats from pests and diseases. While the incidence of the foulbrood diseases appears to be under control, thanks to beekeepers' vigilance and the inspections and training carried out by the National Bee Unit's (NBU) Bee Inspectors, Varroa continues to be a major concern. In addition, *Nosema ceranae* was confirmed for the first time in the UK in 2007 and a current research project is investigating the impact this is having in the UK. The NBU also remains vigilant for the arrival of exotic pests and diseases including Tropilaelaps species and the Small Hive Beetle. These issues, and the relative priority that should be given to the various pest and disease threats, are addressed in the draft Bee Health Strategy that is currently out for public consultation.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors his Department takes into account in determining its funding allocations to bee health research. [217018]

Jonathan Shaw: Budgets for research programmes are agreed by Ministers against DEFRA's objectives and priorities.

Bees: Research

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on bees: research, what research he has commissioned to address the regulatory concerns identified in project HH0819SHB. [216800]

Jonathan Shaw: I understand that the contractor for this project has not discussed the regulatory process for veterinary medicines with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

Manufacturers are deterred from seeking marketing authorisations for any new veterinary medicinal products because of the comparatively small size of the bee keeping market. To address this issue, the VMD is already in negotiation with the British Beekeepers' Association on the regulation of veterinary medicines to treat bee diseases. The VMD would also welcome similar discussions with those wishing to manufacture biological control agents for bee diseases. Should further research indicate that it might be possible to market a biocontrol, it would be important to address regulatory issues at that stage.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to reduce bovine tuberculosis in cattle; and if he will make a statement. [216836]

Jonathan Shaw [*holding answer 7 July 2008*]: A number of enhancements to cattle controls have been introduced in recent years including: zero tolerance for overdue TB tests (i.e. herd movement restrictions applied immediately a test becomes overdue), mandatory pre-movement testing of cattle in high risk areas; and increased use of the gamma interferon blood test. These measures increase our ability to identify infected cattle, thereby reducing the risk of disease spread. We have also been working with stakeholders to raise awareness of simple biosecurity measures to keep cattle and badgers apart. We intend to continue to work with farmers and vets to encourage a high level of compliance with these vital measures.

On 7 July, the Secretary of State announced that DEFRA's policy will be not to issue any licences to farmers to cull badgers to prevent bovine TB and that a further £20 million will be invested towards research over the next three years in improved diagnosis of the disease and developing usable cattle and badger vaccines.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on the use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique to identify infected badger setts; and when he estimates an effective PCR test is likely to be available. [217307]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of diagnostic tests for the detection of *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection in badgers have been developed through DEFRA-funded research projects at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). Currently, although a great deal of research has been, and continues to be, carried out in veterinary and medical laboratories to try to develop PCR tests that can be used for routine diagnosis, results so far have shown that the technique is not yet able to perform as well as conventional bacterial culture in the detection of *M. bovis* in terms of sensitivity, specificity or reliability. Detection of *M. bovis* directly from live badgers and their excretions using PCR is difficult, largely because of the low levels and intermittent nature of excretion of *M. bovis* by infected animals but also because of the difficulty in extracting DNA from mycobacteria and the presence of components that slow down the PCR in clinical samples (so-called 'PCR inhibitors').

From 2007 to 2010, £1.3 million will be invested in work to validate and optimise PCR assays that will allow discrimination between *M. bovis* and other closely related species of *mycobacterium* in environmental samples, including soil from badger setts.

While it may be possible to identify areas, such as badger setts, where the organism is present, it would not be possible to identify individual animals that were infected. Nor would it be possible to establish whether the DNA detected was from *M. bovis* mycobacteria that were viable and infectious. Even if a validated PCR test was available, scientific evidence shows that small scale, localised culling of animals from infected setts is likely to increase disease.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with Sir Nicholas Stern on the appropriate interest rate to use in calculating the costs of mitigating climate change. [217330]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA officials have had discussions with the noble Lord Stern on the approach to discounting that was used in the Stern review and on the implications of the review for broader economic appraisal in Government.

Prior to the publication of the Stern review, DEFRA officials attended an internal meeting at which Lord Stern provided details of the approach to discounting that was used in the Stern review. Lord Stern explained how conventional discounting methodology leads to the use of lower discount rates when assessing whether or not to take global action to avoid dangerous climate change.

Subsequent to the publication of the Stern review, DEFRA officials attended an official-level meeting with Lord Stern to discuss the implications of the Stern review for broader economic appraisal in Government. For example, the Stern review has a number of implications for the tools that are used in Government to perform cost-benefit analysis including the appropriate discount rate to use and the appropriate approach to use to value greenhouse gas emissions in cost-benefit analysis.

Cetaceans: Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research on cetacean bycatch is being undertaken (*a*) by and (*b*) on behalf of his Department; [217049]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assess the merits of (*a*) pingers and (*b*) other technical measures intended to reduce cetacean bycatch. [217050]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has implemented a comprehensive system of by-catch monitoring under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and under Council Regulation 812/2004. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) produces annual reports of this research to the Department, which are published on the Department's website.

The UK has put over £2 million from 2000 to date into researching by-catch mitigation measures and monitoring by-catch on vessels through observers, to try to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch and mitigation measures that are effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and are safe and cost-effective for the industry.

In summary, the current SMRU by-catch mitigation research project has been looking at:

Providing updated estimates of marine mammal by-catch for all relevant fishery sectors through analysis of fleet effort data, existing by-catch rate data and through further monitoring of UK fisheries as determined under the UK's Small Cetacean by-catch Response Strategy.

Investigating the impact of by-catch and other indirect effects of UK fisheries on marine mammal populations, and exploring ways of addressing the limits to by-catch from a management perspective.

Exploring as many research avenues as practicable to search for ways of changing fishing gear design or fishing tactics in order to minimise marine mammal by-catch.

The final report on this research project is currently being externally evaluated prior to publication. A new research contract on this issue has recently been agreed with SMRU.

Acoustic deterrent devices, "pingers", are required to be used in certain fisheries under Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004. The European Commission has recognised that because of deployment problems, member states should continue with trials to develop a working pinger that is safe and cost-effective for the industry and offer maximum protection to dolphins and porpoises.

The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) has recently undertaken research on behalf of DEFRA into the effects of a new design of acoustic deterrent device ("pingers") on porpoise and dolphin distribution. These 'super-pingers' are larger and therefore fewer devices are required, reducing deployment problems. We hope to have more details on the efficacy of these new pingers by spring next year.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [215232]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2060W, on departmental property, whether *(a)* anyone was convicted for theft of the television and *(b)* the incident was recorded on CCTV; and what steps were taken to improve security following the incident. [215794]

Jonathan Shaw: The incident is recorded as having taken place during October 2005 and was reported to the police immediately its loss was known. However, the property was not recovered and no arrests were made.

The plasma screen television was moved from its usual location to prevent it being damaged during the extensive refurbishment of Nobel House taking place at the time. During this refurbishment many areas of the building were only accessible by building workers. It is believed that the equipment may have been removed during rubbish disposal. Unfortunately its removal was not captured on CCTV.

When visiting Nobel House, the police commented that the building's security arrangements in place were good. Security measures include 24-hour security guards, circle lock access/exit doors activated by photographic proximity pass, CCTV monitoring and a pass wearing policy.

Although the police were satisfied with the security arrangements, they have been subject to continuous review since then and improvements have been made. For example, the procedures governing the removal of equipment from the building have been strengthened and guards are instructed to challenge anyone taking equipment away.

Departmental Retirement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the standard retirement age in his Department is; and how many people worked beyond the standard retirement age in each of the last five years. [214129]

Jonathan Shaw: When the new age legislation came into force on 1 October 2006, the Department along with all of its agencies, changed their retirement policies for employees both below the senior civil service and those in the senior civil service. With the exception of Animal Health and the Central Science Laboratory, there is no longer a set retirement age for employees below the SCS and members of staff can work as long as they wish subject to the normal performance, conduct and attendance requirements.

Animal Health and the Central Science Laboratory currently have a retirement age of 65. However, employees are entitled to request to work beyond 65.

The current retirement age for members of the senior civil service is 65. If an employee wishes to stay beyond 65 they can do so, provided it has been agreed by the Permanent Secretary or the relevant agency chief executive.

The number of staff in Animal Health and the Central Science Laboratory who were allowed to work the mandatory retirement age of 65 since 2005 is shown in the following table. No members of the senior civil service have worked beyond 65 in this period. Data for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	AH	*CSL*
2005	0	5
2006	0	5
2007	6	8
2008	12	8

Food Supply

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to paragraph 3.50 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291, whether the Government *(a)* plans to increase the UK's grain production and *(b)* has contingency plans in place for a significant interruption to international shipping. [217223]

Jonathan Shaw: With the recent reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in particular the decoupling of support from production, farmers are now free to follow market signals in terms of their planting decisions. The level of UK grain production will therefore be determined by farmers' view of the market return for their crops at the time of planting, as well as the weather. The Government's aim is to ensure that farmers can respond fully to the market, and for this reason we support the abolition in the CAP Health Check of set-aside as a supply control. We have also provided financial assistance to the Home Grown Cereals Authority to provide price risk management training to arable farmers. The evidence from the December 2007 survey of agriculture suggests farmers are responding well to the market, with wheat plantings for the 2008 harvest up by 10 per cent. and barley by 13 per cent., as compared to the previous year.

The types of grain that we do import, typically high quality wheat for flour production or maize for animal feed, mainly come from other EU countries or from other politically stable countries. The Department for Transport (DfT) has contingency plans to respond when a particular port is out of action, but this is a matter which should be taken up with the DfT. In addition to our domestic production, a multiplicity of trading and transport options allows a flexible response when one element is disrupted.

North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place for the *(a)* representation of the interests and *(b)* consideration of the views of the Solway Haafnetters by the North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee when making decisions affecting them. [216289]

Jonathan Shaw: Stakeholder groups including the Solway Haafnetters are not represented on the North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC).

The Environment Agency advertises regularly for applications for membership of the Environment Agency's North West RFERAC. The most recent recruitment process took place in May 2008. An application for a committee member place was not received by a Solway Haafnet licence holder at that time.

As standard practice, the Environment Agency would take into account the interests of affected stakeholders when forming views on fisheries and other matters. When items connected with haafnetters are debated by the Committee, members are free to ask for any information to assist with their deliberations. All agendas and minutes of the North West RFERAC are available upon request.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the previous Chair of the North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee made a declaration of relevant interests on his appointment. [216278]

Jonathan Shaw: James Carr was appointed by DEFRA's predecessor MAFF, to the role of chair of the North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee, in April 1997.

As a condition of the appointment to chair, a declaration of interest statement was completed in accordance with the Environment Agency's procedure.

James Carr's appointment ended on 30 September 2002.

The current chair, Nicholas Marriner was appointed to the role in October 2002. He completed a declaration of interest statement in accordance with our procedures. These forms are also completed on an annual basis, and are available for inspection by the public.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who appointed the Chair of the North West Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee. [216284]

Jonathan Shaw: I appointed the new chair for the north west region in May 2008. The current chair was appointed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Scunthorpe (Mr. Morley) in May 2002 and reappointed by my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) in February 2005.

Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for appointments to the Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee not falling within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. [216285]

Jonathan Shaw: The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates ministerial appointments to the boards of certain public bodies—including that of the Environment Agency. The Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees are, however, considered sub-committees of the Environment Agency board and do not, therefore, fall within the Commissioner's remit.

However, when making appointments to these Committees, DEFRA follows the Commissioner's 'Code of Practice' as a matter of good practice.

TREASURY

Credit Unions

14. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further steps he plans to take to support the development of credit unions. [217465]

Kitty Ussher: I am delighted to say that at the credit union All Party Parliamentary Group reception I announced the Government would be introducing a Legislative Reform Order, which will remove unnecessary burdens on credit unions and help them to grow and develop with fitting legislation for the 21st century. We will be publishing a consultation document on the proposed changes before summer recess.

Global Carbon Finance Project

15. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions Ministers and officials from his Department have had with the Office of Climate Change on the Global Carbon Finance project. [217466]

Angela Eagle: The Stern Review demonstrated that the economics of climate change is an important issue for economics and finance ministries. Treasury officials therefore work closely with the Office of Climate Change and other government Departments on a range of issues around the economics and financial aspects of climate change, and continue to be involved with the development of the Office of Climate Change's Global Carbon Finance Project.

Budget Deficit

16. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the UK's budget deficit. [217467]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor attended the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on the 8 July, where implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact was discussed, including in the UK.

Food Prices

17. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the effects on the economy of global food prices. [217468]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials hold a wide range of discussions with international counterparts. The Treasury published analysis of the recent increases in energy and agricultural prices on 12 June, and the Government are working to deal with both the short and long-term issues relating to global food prices. For example, the June European Council agreed that it is important to continue to improve the market orientation of agriculture and thus enable EU farmers to respond better to market signals, while the Government continue to work for a balanced WTO deal.

Low Income Households

18. **Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax paid by low income households in the last 12 months. [217469]

19. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax paid by low income households in the last 12 months. [217470]

Jane Kennedy: A single earner family with two children on half male average earnings pays no net tax in 2008-09, as tax credits and child benefit more than offset income tax and national insurance liabilities.

In 1997-98, their net tax burden was 9.3 per cent. of gross income.

As a result of Government reforms to the tax and benefit system since 1997, households in the poorest fifth of the population are, on average, £2,575 a year better off in 2008-09.

Co-operative Sector

20. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on support for the co-operative sector. [217472]

Kitty Ussher: I am delighted to say that I was recently able to announce at the UK Cooperatives Congress, that the Government will be introducing a Legislative Reform Order which will remove the unnecessary burdens on the sector and help them to grow and develop with fitting legislation for the 21st century. We will be publishing a consultation document on the proposed changes before summer recess.

Vehicle Excise Duty

21. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on potential measures to mitigate the effects of increases in vehicle excise duty; and if he will make a statement. [217473]

Angela Eagle: The Government have received a wide-ranging number of representations in relation to the vehicle excise duty reforms announced at Budget. There are a variety of options expressed on their merit.

Tax Burden

22. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the tax burden on low earners and pensioners. [217474]

Jane Kennedy: On 13 May 2008, the Chancellor announced further support for low and middle-income families for 2008-09. For the current tax year, income tax personal allowances will be increased by £600 for all tax payers under 65. Around 22 million basic-rate taxpayers will benefit from this change. The Government will set out plans for future years in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Road Hauliers

23. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the tax and duty regimes for UK and foreign road hauliers within the UK. [217475]

Angela Eagle: Fuel duty remains an important mechanism to encourage efficient use of fuel as the UK seeks to reduce polluting emissions, as well as providing support for the funding of essential public services.

EU law is clear that policy measures may not inhibit the freedom of movement of goods and may not discriminate according to nationality, origin or destination of a vehicle. This of itself precludes any lump-sum tax levied specifically on entry to the UK.

Capital Gains Tax: Shares

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual declarations of share disposals for capital gains tax purposes were made in each of the last three most recently available tax years; and of what total value in each year. [217651]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number and value of disposals by asset type are published as National Statistics on the HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-4.pdf

The current publication refers to 2004-05. Figures for share disposals for that and the previous two years are provided in the following table:

Tax year	*Shares*	*Disposals (Thousand)*	*£ million*
2002-03	Listed	222	3,942
	Unlisted	57	8,890
	Total	279	12,832
2003-04	Listed	277	5,425
	Unlisted	103	9,664
	Total	380	15,088
2004-05	Listed	251	5,805
	Unlisted	178	13,631
	Total	429	19,436

Cost of Living

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of trends in the cost of living. [217471]

Angela Eagle: Higher inflation tends to raise the cost of living. The Treasury published its latest assessment of economic prospects in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2008. The Budget forecast showed inflation was expected to rise in the near term, driven by global energy and food prices. Since then, further rises in crude oil and world food prices have led to higher inflation than that expected at Budget.

Cycling

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of VAT-free bicycles that have been bought by employers under the Government's Cycle to Work scheme in each year since the scheme began; [215700]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of employees who have received use of a bicycle from their employer under the Government's Cycle to Work scheme in each year since the scheme began; [215701]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effects on revenues accruing to the Exchequer as a result of the Cycle to Work scheme, with particular reference to *(a)* VAT exemptions on the purchase price of bicycles, *(b)* lower income tax contributions as a result of bike-related salary sacrifices, *(c)* lower national insurance contributions by employers as a result of bike-related salary sacrifices, *(d)* lower national insurance contributions by employees as a result of bike-related salary sacrifices and *(e)* capital allowances for bicycle purchases in each year since the scheme began; [215702]

(4) if he will estimate the number of employees earning the national minimum wage that have received use of a bicycle under the Cycle to Work scheme in each year since the scheme began. [215703]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimates have been made.

Bicycles purchased by employers for use in a Cycle to Work scheme are liable to the standard rate of VAT. However, under the normal rules of VAT, the tax charged can be reclaimed by a VAT registered business to the extent that it relates to its taxable business activities.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217075]

Angela Eagle: These data have been published as at 31 March 2006, 2007 and 2008 for the Treasury and its agencies and can be found on the Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/deptreport_index.cfm.

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the list of energy saving materials covered by a reduced value added tax rate; whether these discussions have included proposals to amend the list; what discussions he has had on the exclusion of double glazing and low emissivity glass from the list; and if he will make a statement. [214968]

Jane Kennedy: The availability of VAT reduced rates is governed by the European VAT agreements, signed by successive Governments. Where reduced rates are available, these have been applied where they provide the most cost-effective and well-targeted support for the Government's objectives.

The existing provisions of directive 2006/112/EC have allowed us to introduce a reduced rate of VAT of 5 per cent. for the installation of certain renewable energy technologies and certain energy-saving materials; there is no requirement to discuss the materials and products to which it is applied with EU counterparts. The Government have examined the possibility of applying a reduced rate to the installation of double glazing and low-emissivity glass, but legal advice has suggested that under the current terms of directive 2006/112/EC, this would be incompatible with the principle of fiscal neutrality.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1201-02, on income tax, if he will break down the 1.1 million people affected by the removal of the 10p tax rate, who were not fully compensated by the measures announced in the statement by *(a)* age, *(b)* income decile, *(c)* region and *(d)* full or part-time employment; and if he will make a statement. [216151]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 July 2008]:* A detailed breakdown, including by age, of the 1.1 million households who were not fully compensated by the £600 increase in the personal allowance for income tax announced by the Chancellor on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1201-02, is provided in the Treasury's memorandum to the Treasury Select Committee as part of their inquiry into "Budget Measures and Low Income Households".

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 28 May 2008, PO Ref: 1/57888/2008, on diesel fuel. [217784]

Angela Eagle: I have done so.

Mortgages

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with mortgage lenders on the effect on the economy of levels of mortgage provision to first-time house buyers. [217452]

Kitty Ussher: I have regular discussions with the mortgage industry on a range of issues relating to the economy, and we continue to monitor economic developments closely, including the market for first-time buyers.

Poverty

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to combat poverty amongst low income workers without dependent children. [216466]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: Since 1997 the Government have introduced a series of reforms to make work pay and to guarantee minimum weekly incomes for families without dependent children. By October 2008, in real terms, households without dependent children in the poorest fifth of the population will be, on average, £1,800 a year better off.

These changes include the introduction, for the first time, of the working tax credit and a national minimum wage, which work together to provide guaranteed income in work. Since 1999, the minimum income guarantee has increased by 30 per cent. in real terms for single people aged 25 and over and in full time work.

Tax credits also play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty. The 1st tax credit threshold, the point at which tax credits start to be withdrawn, was increased by £1,200 this year.

Research and Development Tax Credit: Energy

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding his Department has provided through research and development tax credits for projects relating to *(a)* energy generation, *(b)* renewable energy generation, *(c)* energy transmission and *(d)* energy efficiency, broken down by region. [217926]

Angela Eagle: Claims made by companies for R and D tax credits do not include details of the type of R and D project in the claim. Therefore, information on funding provided by R and D tax credits for energy-related projects is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projected savings HM Revenue and Customs plan to obtain through the sale of buildings over the next three years. [216719]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Change Programme is designed to consolidate the estate following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise and to match the accommodation to future business needs. The overall aim of the programme is to provide better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer and although estate savings are important they are not the primary driver.

HMRC does not plan to obtain any further savings through the sale of buildings over the next three years.

Under the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley STEPS Contractor Limited in April 2001, ownership of most of the properties formerly owned by Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise transferred to Mapeley.

HMRC does not make savings as a result of the sale of a property transferred to Mapeley.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings HM Revenue and Customs plans to make through *(a)* staff headcount reductions and *(b)* asset disposal at its Brecon tax office in the next 12 months. [217147]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 July 2008]*: Proposals for the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Government Buildings, Brecon, along with other individual locations in Wales, were published on 11 June 2008. The office is proposed for vacation, but final decisions are not expected until later this year.

Valuation Office: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's targets for *(a)* elapsed time on council tax reports, *(b)* banding accuracy and *(c)* rateable value loss are. [217801]

Jane Kennedy: This information is provided in the VOA forward plan available from the Library and in the listed publications on the VOA website:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/forward_plan/Forward_Plan_2008-11.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 440W, on tax credits to deceased claimants, if he will publish the data for the cost to the public purse of tax credits paid to deceased persons for 2006-07. [215386]

Jane Kennedy: Around £2 million was overpaid in tax credits in 2006-07, where the award ceased due to the death of an applicant.

This can occur due to the time taken to notify HMRC of a death.

JUSTICE

Dangerous Driving: Prosecutions

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for causing death by careless driving in the last 12 months. [217650]

Maria Eagle: Section 20 of the Road Safety Act 2006, which introduced the new offence of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving has not yet been implemented. The new offence will be implemented after the Sentencing Guidelines Council has published guidelines for the courts. Any information on the number of prosecutions and convictions for this offence will not be available before late 2009.

Employment Tribunals Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued on whether it is appropriate for an employment tribunal to be chaired by a relative of the person who has brought the case under consideration. [216904]

Bridget Prentice: It is central to the justice system that decisions are taken by independent individuals and this is the policy for employment tribunals. Issues of conflict of interest or appearance of bias are taken into consideration when a panel is appointed.

Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act: Prosecutions

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000; how many convictions there have been for offences under the Act; what the sentences were in each case; what the donations were in each such case; how many such cases involved late declarations; and what the delay in declaration was in each such case. [216814]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

There were no prosecutions or convictions under PPERA between 2000 and 2003.

The data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought. For example, it is not possible to identify: how many such cases involved impermissible donations; or what donations were in each case.

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 came into force in November 2000.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*
2004				
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	2	2	2
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	8	5	5
Total		10	7	7
2005				
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	0	0	0
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	11	10	10
Total		11	10	10
2006				
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	0	2	2
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	8	4	4
Total		8	6	6

		Sentence breakdown						
Statute	*Offence description*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*
2004								
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
Total		0	2	2	3	0	0	0
2005								
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	0	2	7	1	0	0	0
Total		0	2	7	1	0	0	0
2006								
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Triable either way offences	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	Summary offences	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Total		0	0	3	1	0	2	0

[1] There were no prosecutions or convictions under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 between 2000 and 2003.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The sentenced column may have different figures compared to found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the Crown court may be sentenced in the following year.

[5] The following sections of the Act are triable either way offences: 43(7) Failing to deliver report of auditor removal/resignation 44(4) Making false statement to auditor 54(5) Fail to provide information about donation/donor to party 54(6) Agent failing to provide information to party about donor 56(3) & Sch. 20 Registered party fail to return impermissible donation 56(3) & Sch. 20 Treasurer fail to return impermissible donation 56(3) & Sch. 20 Treasurer fait to return donation by unidentifiable donor 61(1) & Sch. 20 Enter arrangement facilitating impermissible donation 61(1) & Sch. 20 Act in furtherance of an arrangement facilitating impermissible donation 61(2)(a) & Sch 20 Give treasurer false information about donation 61(2)(b) & Sch. 20 Withhold from treasurer false information about donation 65(4) & Sch. 20 Fail to comply with donation reports requirements 66(5) & Sch. 20 False declaration in donation report 68(5)(a) & Sch. 20 Individual donor fail to report multiple small donations 68(5)(a) & Sch. 20 Non-individual donor fail to report multiple small donations 68(5)(b) & Sch. 20 Deliver out of time/complete report declaring multiple donations 66(5)(c) & Sch. 20 Failure to declare multiple small donations 73(85) & Sch. 20 Make false declaration of campaign expenditure.

[6] The following sections of the Act are summary offences: 24(8) Political party treasurer convicted of offences 39 Making false statement to electoral commission 47(1)(a) Fail to deliver proper statement of accounts 47(1)(b) Fail to deliver statement of accounts before end of relevant period 65(3) & Sch. 20 Treasurer fail to deliver donation report within 30 days 65(3) & Sch. 20 Treasurer fail to deliver donation report within seven days.

Source:

CJEAU Office for Criminal Justice Reform Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people convicted of an offence of *(a)* violence and *(b)* domestic violence have been released on end of custody licence from Welsh prisons; [216955]

(2) how many people have been released on End of Custody Licence from Welsh prisons since 27 June 2007; [216956]

(3) how many people convicted of offences involving domestic violence have been released on end of custody licence since 27 June 2007. [216957]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the available information on numbers of prisoners by offence group, who were released under the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme from 29 June 2007 to 31 May 2008 in total, and from Welsh prisons:

Offence categories	*Releases on ECL*	
	Total	*From Welsh prisons*
Violence against the person	5,468	245
Sexual offences	8	0
Robbery	668	28
Burglary	2,609	153
Theft and Handling	6,563	259
Fraud and Forgery	551	10
Drug offences	1,218	61
Motoring offences	3,529	211
Other offences	7,778	427
Offence not recorded	487	24
Total	28,879	1,418

Domestic violence is not a specific offence. Offenders who commit domestic violence are charged with a generic offence of assault. It would not be possible to identify the number of prisoners convicted of domestic violence related offences without examining individual case files which would incur disproportionate cost.

Data for all prisons are published monthly, in the statistical bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Discipline

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many formal punishments were recorded against *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each prison in each of the last five years. [216823]

Maria Eagle: Data on punishments imposed at adjudications on prisoners found guilty of offences against prison discipline are published annually in chapter 9 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics, available on the Ministry of Justice website at

www.justice.gov.uk/docs/omcs2006.pdf.

The latest available edition, giving figures for 2006, was published in December 2007.

The number of punishments imposed on male and female prisoners in the years 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table. Data can only be provided at a national level because robust information at establishment level is not held centrally and could not be provided without extensive manual checking of individual records, which would be at disproportionate cost.

Total number of punishments imposed on prisoners at adjudications, by gender

Number of punishments	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Male	167,600	170,635	172,412	176,490	164,849
Female	13,850	13,277	13,082	12,914	13,958

Note
Figures for 2002 have been estimated and rounded to the nearest 50.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many random mandatory drug tests in prisons and young offender institutions in England and Wales were carried out on each day of the week in each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07; and how many tests carried out on *(a)* Mondays and *(b)* in total in each of those years gave a positive result for (i) cannabis, (ii) any opiate, (iii) heroin and (iv) methadone; [217161]

(2) what percentage of the population of each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution in England and Wales was tested each month under a random mandatory drug test in each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07; [217163]

(3) how many of those random mandatory drug tests carried out in prisons and young offender institutions in England and Wales which tested 5 per cent. of inmates monthly gave positive results for *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* any opiate, *(c)* heroin and *(d)* methadone in each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07. [217164]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested are not available in precisely the format requested. I will therefore write to the hon. Member as soon as possible. A copy of my response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* testing process and *(b)* analysis of results for random mandatory drug tests carried out in prisons and young offender institutions in England and Wales was in each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07. [217162]

Mr. Hanson: Many prison officers responsible for the mandatory drug testing (MDT) process do not work exclusively on the testing of prisoners. The cost of MDT staff resources cannot be disaggregated from the overall prison running costs.

The cost to National Offender Management Services of MDT analytical services is classified as commercial in confidence.

Terrorism: Greater London

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those injured in the 7/7 bombings are waiting for their compensation claims to be fully settled; and if he will make a statement. [218008]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has paid a full or interim payment to 96 per cent. of eligible people who have applied for compensation for the 7/7 bombings. As at 8 July 2008, 72 of those injured are waiting for their compensation claims to be fully settled. However, CICA have made a final offer to 18 of these cases and they are waiting to see if the offer will be accepted.

Of the remaining 54 active cases, 37 have either received, or been offered, an interim payment. Another four have been offered final awards but have rejected the offer; four applications are currently suspended, and the remaining nine are the subject of continuing inquiries by CICA.

Tribunals: Employment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what percentage of cases heard in employment tribunals did the tribunal find in favour of the *(a)* appellant and *(b)* respondent in the last period for which figures are available. [216602]

Bridget Prentice: 35,780 appeals were submitted to the Employment Tribunal in 2006-07. Of these, 21,816 (61 per cent.) were successful. 2,942 (8 per cent.) of appeals were dismissed and did not proceed to hearing. 11,022 appeals were unsuccessful. Appeals are classified as 'unsuccessful' for a number of reasons. Because of this the classification of 'unsuccessful' does not mean that a judgment has been made in favour of the respondent.

In order to discover whether an unsuccessful claim at tribunal was found in favour of the respondent, manual checking of individual tribunal records would be required at disproportionate cost. However, a register of all Employment Tribunal judgments is open to inspection by any person without charge during office hours; this public register is located at the Tribunal Service office in Bury St. Edmunds.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people have gone through the pre-volunteer pilot programme in each of the pilot boroughs. [211776]

Tessa Jowell: The pre-volunteer programme has now been rebranded as the Personal Best programme. The pilots in 11 London boroughs have demonstrated that long before the games take place, their inspiration is motivating those furthest away from the labour market into further volunteering, training and employment. The numbers of people that have graduated the pilot programme at borough level is as follows:

	Numbers of people who have graduated the pilot programme
Brent	40
Bromley	23
Greenwich	31
Hackney	50
Haringey	34
Lambeth	42
Newham	34
Southwark	48
Tower Hamlets	24
Waltham Forest	15
Westminster	39

HEALTH

Abortion: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortion clinics failed an inspection by the National Care Standards Commission in the last 10 years. [216266]

Dawn Primarolo: The Healthcare Commission (HCC) has been responsible for regulating independent sector places that perform termination of pregnancy since 1 April 2004. Data are not readily available prior to this period.

Independent health care providers regulated by the HCC are assessed for compliance with the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England) Regulations 2001, as amended, against the national minimum standards. The degree of the provider's compliance is not measured against a pass or fail system, but where a provider is not compliant with one or more regulations, requirements can be issued by the regulator to secure improvement as a first stage in enforcement.

In 2005-06, the first year for which data are available, 21 termination of pregnancy providers received requirements against regulations. This fell to 16 providers in 2006-07. Data for 2007-08 are still being compiled.

The next stage of the enforcement route is to issue a regulation 51 notice where there is a breach of specific regulations. None have been issued since June 2006. Data were not collected centrally prior to this period.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many doctors employed in abortion clinics have been the subject of General Medical Council disciplinary proceedings since 1990; [216267]

(2) how many nurses employed in abortion clinics have been the subject of Royal College of Nursing disciplinary proceedings since 1990. [216269]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. In addition, the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the statutory body for the regulation of nurses and midwives, do not hold the information in the format requested.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what safeguards are in place to ensure that abortions performed under section 1(1)(a) of the Abortion Act 1967 take place within the 24-week time limit. [216268]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 837W.

Avian Influenza

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the threat to UK health from avian influenza, with particular regard to the mutation to the human form of the virus H5N1. [216575]

Dawn Primarolo: The Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza has undertaken an assessment of the risks of a human influenza pandemic emerging from avian H5N1 viruses and concluded that the likelihood of the current strain of H5N1 or any other specific virus strain developing pandemic potential cannot be quantified.

Currently there is no evidence that the H5N1 avian influenza virus has acquired the ability to transmit readily from person to person and infection in humans remains associated with very close contact with sick birds.

Overall the public health risks posed by avian influenza, in the absence of outbreaks in poultry in the United Kingdom, remain low.

Childbirth

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* elective, *(b)* non-elective and *(c)* emergency births have occurred outside a maternity unit in each of the last five years. [216834]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Chlamydia: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were diagnosed with chlamydia in Peterborough Primary Care Trust area and its predecessor bodies in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [214818]

Dawn Primarolo: Nationally, data in genito-urinary medicine clinics (GUM) are only collected on diagnoses made, not on the number of patients diagnosed.

Information on the number of diagnoses of uncomplicated chlamydia infections in GUM is currently only available at strategic health authority (SHA) level. The east of England SHA includes the Peterborough Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The total number of diagnoses of uncomplicated chlamydia infection in the east of England SHA are shown in the following table:

	Total
1997	2,944
1998	3,620
1999	4,220
2000	4,894
2001	5,531
2002	6,470
2003	7,178
2004	8,031
2005	8,369
2006	8,300

Notes

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.

2. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

3. Data are unavailable for 2007.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides chlamydia screening to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years in England since April 2003. The following table shows the number of positive chlamydia screens among those aged 13 to 24 years who were screened for chlamydia and are resident in Peterborough PCT as part of the NCSP during the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008.

	Peterborough PCT
2003-04	[1]
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	35
2007-08	114
All Years	[1]

[1] Cell size of one to four and totals have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with office guidelines.

Notes

1. The data from the NCSP core dataset are for positive chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics only and include positive screens made by the Boots pathfinder project.

2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of positive screens made and not the number of patients who tested positive.

3. The data is specific to the following years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 since the NCSP follows the financial year.

Source:

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme Core Dataset.

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of individuals resident in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 60 and *(c)* over 60 years of age do not have access to an NHS dentist; and if he make a statement. [216963]

Ann Keen: The information requested on individuals resident in Peterborough primary care trust area who do not have access to a national health service dentist is not held centrally.

It is for local NHS organisations to make local arrangements to ensure patients are supported in accessing NHS dental services. Increasing access to primary care dental services year on year is now an NHS priority.

Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to give *(a)* patients and *(b)* NHS staff more influence over the provision of health services. [217137]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 242 of the NHS Act 2006 (formerly section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001) already requires national health service organisations to involve patients and the public in the planning and provision of health services.

This duty has been strengthened by the introduction of local involvement networks (LINks) from April 2008. Part of the role of LINks is to give all citizens the chance to say what they think about and want from their local health and care services, and to give them the chance to influence how services are planned and run. In addition, Section 234 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to report back to their communities how they have involved and consulted users, and how such involvement has impacted on their commissioning decisions.

Since April 2008, all patients requiring an elective referral can choose their first outpatient appointment from any hospital provider that meets NHS standards and costs. By exercising choice patients will have greater influence on the provision of health services, as providers will be incentivised to tailor services to the needs and preferences of patients.

To help people choose their hospital provider the NHS Choices website contains easy to access comparison data on hospitals. The new Primary and Community Care Strategy commits to extending the NHS Choices service further to include more comparative information on general practitioner services and the views of local patients.

NHS foundation trusts are also accountable to their service users, who along with members of the public and staff can become members of their local organisation. The inclusion of members and locally elected governors ensures the direct participation and influence of local communities in service provision by NHS foundation trusts.

Finally, on 30 June 2008, the Department laid before Parliament the "High Quality Care for All" (CM7432), the final report of the NHS next stage review, led by Lord Darzi. This marked the culmination of a year-long process which itself has given frontline staff and patients an unprecedented opportunity to shape the future of health and healthcare at local level. "High Quality Care for All" set out a series of measures that the Department will now take to enable frontline staff, with the continued engagement of patients and the public, to realise those visions, and to enable patients to take greater control of their own health and healthcare. The document with the full list of enabling measures can be found at:

www.ournhs.nhs.uk.

Alongside the report, the Government published a draft NHS Constitution for consultation, to reaffirm the enduring principles and values of the NHS, and to empower patients, the public and staff. The Constitution collects together important rights for both patients and staff, and it makes a number of pledges that reflect where the NHS should go further than the legal minimum. For example, the Constitution sets out the right for people to be involved in the planning and development of NHS services (this derives from the duty in section 242 of the NHS Act 2006), and a pledge that the NHS will strive to engage staff in decisions that affect them and the services they provide.

Health Services: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme has to conduct an audit of dignity for patients in hospital and other care settings. [212300]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to taking action to promote dignity in care services. In November 2006, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Ivan Lewis) launched the first ever Dignity in Care Campaign. The campaign aims to stimulate a national debate around dignity in care and create a care system where there is zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of older people. It is led by Government in partnership with many organisations that provide and commission care and protect the interests of those using care services and their carers.

A scoping study for a National Clinical Audit of Dignity ("Essence of care") for older people in hospital and other settings was commissioned, by the Healthcare Commission, from the Royal college of Nursing. The scope has been presented to the National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme and the National Clinical Audit Advisory Group, to consider whether a full audit should be commissioned.

Human Embryo Experiments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 659W, on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, what account was taken of the status of pro-nuclei as non-equivalent to the nucleus of an embryonic cell in developing the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill; and if he will make a statement. [216809]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 July 2008]*: A single cell embryo contains two pro-nuclei. One contains the nuclear Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid (DNA) from the sperm and one contains the nuclear DNA from the egg. The two pro-nuclei form the entire complement of nuclear DNA within the single cell embryo. Upon division of a single cell embryo the DNA of the pro-nuclei replicates, and following cell division the two cells each contain a single nucleus. In the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Bill the DNA within the pro-nuclei of a single cell embryo, and DNA within the nucleus of any other cell, are given equivalence. This ensures that clauses in the HFE Bill which refer to nuclear DNA, are also referring to pro-nuclear DNA. It means that, even though a pro-nucleus and a nucleus are not scientifically equivalent, clarity is provided for the purposes of the prohibitions and licensing on the HFE Bill.

Leishmaniasis

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with leishmaniasis in each of the last 10 years. [216272]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of cases of leishmaniasis reported in each of the last 10 years for England, Wales and Northern Ireland are shown in the following table:

	Number
1997	15
1998	24
1999	18
2000	10
2001	25
2002	24
2003	38
2004	50
2005	58
2006	57

All cases of leishmaniasis diagnosed in the United Kingdom are acquired abroad. We currently do not have the vector for this disease in the UK. Data for 2007 have not yet been finalised.

Lung Cancer: Health Services

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative assessment he has made of (*a*) outcomes from and (*b*) expenditure on lung cancer services in (i) other EU countries and (ii) OECD countries; whether he has established international benchmarks for lung cancer services; what steps he is taking to improve outcomes for lung cancer patients; and if he will make a statement. [216785]

Ann Keen: We have made no comparative assessment of outcomes from and investment in lung cancer services in other European Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and no international benchmarks for lung cancer services have been set. An electronic toolkit for commissioning cancer services was launched in June 2008, which provides local benchmark information to help commissioners plan and monitor services, including lung cancer services.

We published the "Cancer Reform Strategy" on 3 December 2007, copies of the strategy have already been placed in the Library. The strategy sets a clear direction for the development of cancer services in England over the next five to 10 years. It contains a wide range of measures to tackle all cancers and improve patient care, and it will transform existing cancer care from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and aftercare.

Maternity Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will issue guidance to South West Essex Care Trust on the provision of post-natal health checks on new-born infants up to the age of six weeks; and if he will make a statement; [217657]

(2) what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on the provision of a post-natal check on new-born infants at six weeks after birth; what his policy on the provision of a six-week check is; what the purpose of the six-week check is; what is examined in the course of the check; and if he will make a statement. [217654]

Ann Keen: On the 17 March 2008 the Department published guidance for the "Child Health Promotion Programme. Pregnancy and the first years of life". "The Child Health Promotion Programme" is the early intervention and prevention public health programme that lies at the heart of our universal service for children and families. The guidance states that new born infants should have a health review at six to eight weeks.

This Review should include:

a comprehensive physical examination, with emphasis on eyes, heart and hips (and testes for boys)

a record of the baby's feeding status—breast-feeding, bottle feeding or mixed feeding; review of general progress and delivery of key messages about parenting and baby's health, including eating and activity, weaning and accident prevention, information about play and appropriate activities, and baby's weight and length should be measured and plotted, where there are concerns.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

We have no plans to issue special guidance to South West Essex care trust.

Ritalin

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were prescribed Ritalin in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust area. [217024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available to cover the timescale requested. A table has been placed in the Library, which shows an estimate of the number of prescription items of methylphenidate hydrochloride, prescribed to children for each year since 2003 broken down by primary care trust. This includes children aged 0 to 15 years and those aged 17 and 18 years in full-time education (FTE).

Ritalin is one brand name of methylphenidate hydrochloride. The products included in the table represent all the generic and branded name variations of methylphenidate that can be used for the management of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in children.

Data are available from May 2003 to April 2008. The information provided is based on the capture of data on every 20th prescription form and is therefore an estimate and subject to sampling errors.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions has a donor organ or donor tissue has been available but an intended transplant procedure not taken place as a result of insufficient intensive care facilities in NHS hospitals in the last three years. [216221]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his Department's responsibilities are in relation to apprenticeships; and which Minister has those responsibilities; [217053]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the written agreement between his Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the policy of handling and funding of apprenticeships. [217054]

Jim Knight: There is a single apprenticeship programme. My Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills have shared responsibilities for apprenticeships. Significant policy decisions affecting apprenticeships for both young people and adults are taken, with my Department leading on policy affecting apprentices under age 19 and the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills leading for apprentices post-19. The responsibility for apprenticeships was outlined in the Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation paper published last summer and available in the Library. Funding for apprenticeships is detailed in a joint grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council from both Departments. 'World-class Apprenticeships', published in January 2008, set out our plans for the expansion of apprenticeships and for the new National Apprenticeship Service. I have arranged for our agreed policy document to be placed in the Library.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 235-36W, how much of the £232 million from the Graduate Leader Fund dedicated to supporting settings to employ graduates will be spent on staff salaries. [213475]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not specify what proportion of the £232 million Graduate Leader Fund, allocated to local authorities, is for graduate salaries. The Graduate Leader Fund is designed to incentivise the recruitment, employment and retention of graduates in private, voluntary and independent sector full day care settings. A condition of funding is that settings commit to employing graduate early years professionals and local authorities, in consultation with local providers, determine how to use this funding to secure that aim.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 274W, on children: day care, how many and what proportion of local authorities have identified a shortfall in sufficiency of child care provision through the child care sufficiency assessment required by section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006. [217493]

Beverley Hughes: Child care sufficiency assessments had to be completed before the new duty on local authorities to secure sufficient child care for working parents came into force. The purpose of requiring all local authorities to undertake such assessments was to ensure that they have a better knowledge of supply, demand and the gaps between the two than had previously been the case, so that they are able to prioritise appropriately as they pursue their duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents. Every local authority will need actively to manage its child care market if it is to secure and sustain sufficient child care in both the short and the longer term.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) by what means his Department monitors local authority performance in increasing the levels of qualification among childcare staff employed by local government bodies; [217496]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 273W, on children: daycare, what evaluation mechanisms are in place to access the effectiveness of the Sure Start early years and childcare grant in increasing the level of qualifications amongst childminders. [217565]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on qualifications held by staff working in child care and early years providers, including child minders. In addition the survey collects information on qualifications that staff are working towards and details of the ownership of the provision. The time series that this survey provides allows an assessment to be made of how qualifications are changing over time.

Data is not available at a local authority level. Data is not available on whether it is specifically the Sure Start early years and child care grant that has led to changes in qualifications.

Children's Centres: Voluntary Organisations

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1795W, on Sure Start: voluntary organisations, how many and what proportion of Sure Start children's centres were run by voluntary organisations in each year since records have been available. [210028]

Beverley Hughes: Pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1795W, annual information on how many and what proportion of Sure Start children's centres are run by voluntary organisations is not collected centrally. Our Sure Start children's centres phase 3 planning and delivery guidance, issued November 2007, encourages local authorities to draw on the relevant and valuable expertise within the voluntary, private and independent sector (PVI) at an early stage about where children's centres should be located and who should run them.

Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint working document on 14-19 policies commissioned by his Department with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. [217055]

Jim Knight: On 29 June 2007, a day after the announcement of the Machinery of Government changes by the Prime Minister, a paper entitled "Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation" was placed in the Libraries of both houses and on the Cabinet Office website. This document sets out clearly the roles and responsibilities of my Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills-giving the DCSF the lead responsibility for the reforms and delivery of the 14-19 curriculum and qualifications. This will include: increasing participation and attainment by young people by age 19; reducing the number of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or and training; and raising the participation age.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils' results were exempted from appearing in school league tables in each of the last 10 years. [217199]

Jim Knight: There are only two circumstances in which pupil level results are excluded from final publication of key stage 2 to key stage 4 achievement and attainment tables for individual schools. All pupils are included in national level data.

The first is when schools request for pupils, recently admitted from overseas within the last two years with little or no English, to be discounted from the figures. We accept that these pupils are unlikely to be able to show what they can do in the tests until they have improved their English language skills and are more familiar with the school curriculum in this country.

The second is where schools have 10 or fewer pupils eligible to sit key stage 2 tests. In this situation, only 'background information' for these schools is published. In 2007 this applied to 1,149 schools for English results, 1,151 for maths results and 1,150 for science results.

The following table gives the number of pupils in 2007 whose results have not been attributed to any particular school for each of key stages 2 to 4 because they have arrived from overseas in the last two years and have little or no English.

	Number of overseas pupils whose results are not attributed to any one school
Key stage 2	2,689
Key stage 3	1,419
Key stage 4	1,973

Further information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many year 6 pupils were not entered for key stage two tests in 2007; [217203]

(2) how many year 9 pupils were not entered for key stage 3 tests in 2007; [217204]

(3) how many pupils who sat *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 tests had results which were exempted from classification in 2007. [217205]

Jim Knight: Pupil test results for both key Stage 2 and 3 are published annually in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables when pupils reach the end of a key stage.

Pupils who are working below the level of the test are not entered for tests.

Pupils who have been entered for tests, but not attained levels 2-5 for key stage 2 or levels 2-8 for key stage 3 may be placed in the following categories (other categories):

Working at the level of the tests, but unable to access them;

Left the school before the tests;

Absent on day of test;

No level awarded;

Test paper lost;

Mixed tier (pupil took papers of incompatible tiers in a subject);

Result annulled due to maladministration;

Result ineligible/disapplied.

The following table illustrates the numbers in these two categories in 2007 for both key stage 2 and 3, by subject:

	Pupils working below level of test	*Other categories*
Key stage 2		
English	23,339	14,521
Maths	19,112	19,176
Science	12,608	11,183
Key stage 3		
English	24,071	50,459
Maths	7,356	27,007
Science	7,207	30,488

Education: Film

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if the Government will bring forward legislative proposals to allow primary school teachers to show PG-rated films in class where the teacher believes the film is appropriate and of educational value, without having to secure prior parental approval; what his policy on the use of films in schools is; and if he will make a statement. [207886]

Jim Knight: We believe that appropriate films can help to broaden pupils' minds and give insight into other cultures, people and languages. It is because of this, that over the next three years, we are providing £11.4 million to fund the roll out of Film Club a programme which helps schools to set up film clubs and access a wide range of quality films. BBFC film classifications are provided on a statutory basis to give the public, especially parents, information on films to help them make decisions about what their children watch. The BBFC consider that a 'PG' film should not disturb a child aged around eight or older. However, parents—and those acting in loco parentis are advised to consider whether the content may upset younger or more sensitive children. There is no need for the legislation suggested, as there is no legal restriction on schools showing PG-rated films to pupils. Teachers are best placed to decide whether showing a film to illustrate an issue is a good way for children and young people to learn, but they must ensure that the film is suitable for all students to view. Responsible school policy may require teachers to seek the agreement of parents.

Education: International Cooperation

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to promote the Government's strategy for international education. [217245]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills continue to promote the Government's strategy for international education through active participation in international organisations including the European Union, the OECD, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth and UNESCO as well as through the development of a number of bilateral and international education programmes such as the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education, the Prime Minister's Global Fellowship Programme, the Graduate Work Experience Programme (China and India); the International School Award and the Global Gateway; the International Leadership and Learning Programme and the Teachers' International Professional Development Programme. The Department is also working closely with DIUS to ensure that the European Skills Review, as outlined in the Prime Minister's "Global Europe" paper, highlights the importance of skills acquisition in the European Union, to help achieve future economic prosperity and social inclusion for EU citizens.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many full-time *(a)* special educational needs co-ordinators and *(b)* learning support assistants there have been in each young offender institution since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [217683]

(2) how many part-time *(a)* special educational needs co-ordinators and *(b)* learning support assistants there have been in each young offender institution since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [217684]

(3) what minimum qualifications are required for *(a)* special needs co-ordinators and *(b)* learning support assistants in young offender institutions; and if he will make a statement. [217685]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the numbers of special educational needs co-ordinators and learning support assistants in young offender institutions (YOIs) is not collected centrally.

As is the case in the mainstream education sector, there are no minimum qualifications required of special educational needs co-ordinators and learning support assistants in young offender institutions. It is for the institution to decide who to employ; matching qualifications and experience held by the applicant to the individual needs of the institution and the young offenders held within it.

Sport England: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated per capita in each London local authority area by Sport England in each year since 2003. [216476]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Sport England has advised that the amount allocated per capita in each London local authority for each year since 2003 is as follows:

Financial Year 2003/04

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barnet	20,900	Lottery	329.7	0.06
Bexley	1,675,000	Lottery	220.3	7.60
Brent	225,211	Lottery	270.1	0.83
Bromley	636,281	Lottery	301.9	2.11
Camden	161,170	Lottery	226.1	0.71
Croydon	145,000	Lottery	342.7	0.42
Ealing	72,009	Lottery	301.8	0.24
Enfield	850,000	Lottery	280.5	3.03
Greenwich	129,551	Lottery	228.1	0.57
Hammersmith and Fulham	389,915	Lottery	179.9	2.17
Haringey	569,272	Lottery	224.5	2.54
Havering	188,000	Lottery	226.2	0.83
Hillingdon	40,000	Lottery	252.4	0.16
Hounslow	1,107,547	Lottery	212.5	5.21
Islington	327,383	Lottery	182.6	1.79
Kingston upon Thames	4,185	Lottery	153	0.03
Lambeth	487,916	Lottery	269.1	1.81
Lewisham	551,773	Lottery	247.5	2.23
Newham	785,327	Lottery	246.2	3.19
Southwark	3,460,676	Lottery	257.7	13.43
Sutton	1,493,077	Lottery	177.7	8.40
Tower Hamlets	419,895	Lottery	213.2	1.97
Waltham Forest	3,509,891	Lottery	224.1	15.66
Wandsworth	131,286	Lottery	281.4	0.47
Westminster	5,415,523	Lottery	244.4	22.16

Financial Year 2003/04

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Enfield	24,250	Exchequer	280.5	0.09
Hackney	35,000	Exchequer	207.7	0.17
Havering	3,333	Exchequer	226.2	0.01
Southwark	29,750	Exchequer	257.7	0.12
Tower Hamlets	31,667	Exchequer	213.2	0.15
Waltham Forest	48,400	Exchequer	224.1	0.22
Wandsworth	48,000	Exchequer	281.4	0.17

Financial Year 2004/05

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	415,192	Lottery	164.5	2.52
Brent	253,610	Lottery	270.1	0.94
Bromley	470,340	Lottery	301.9	1.56
Camden	8,128,681	Lottery	226.1	35.95
Croydon	168,000	Lottery	342.7	0.49
Ealing	10,000	Lottery	301.8	0.03
Enfield	6,700,000	Lottery	280.5	23.89
Greenwich	343,161	Lottery	228.1	1.50
Hackney	192,473	Lottery	207.7	0.93
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,262,394	Lottery	179.9	23.69
Haringey	873,745	Lottery	224.5	3.89

Financial Year 2004/05

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Havering	138,000	Lottery	226.2	0.61
Hillingdon	2,046,505	Lottery	252.4	8.11
Hounslow	1,872,725	Lottery	212.5	8.81
Islington	910,076	Lottery	182.6	4.98
Kensington and Chelsea	256,217	Lottery	196.2	1.31
Lambeth	3,093,282	Lottery	269.1	11.49
Lewisham	727,141	Lottery	247.5	2.94
Merton	40,000	Lottery	194.7	0.21
Newham	1,198,251	Lottery	246.2	4.87
Richmond upon Thames	636,876	Lottery	186.3	3.42
Southwark	318,516	Lottery	257.7	1.24
Sutton	213,000	Lottery	177.7	1.20
Tower Hamlets	8,414,074	Lottery	213.2	39.47
Waltham Forest	2,123,124	Lottery	224.1	9.47
Wandsworth	1,405,340	Lottery	281.4	4.99
Westminster	1,434,762	Lottery	244.4	5.87

Financial Year 2004/05

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Camden	1,008,112	Exchequer	226.1	4.46
Enfield	34,259	Exchequer	280.5	0.12
Hackney	176,000	Exchequer	207.7	0.85
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,714,395	Exchequer	179.9	9.53
Havering	3,333	Exchequer	226.2	0.01
Hounslow	169,434	Exchequer	212.5	0.80
Islington	29,419	Exchequer	182.6	0.16
Richmond upon Thames	6,181,702	Exchequer	186.3	33.18
Southwark	139,152	Exchequer	257.7	0.54
Tower Hamlets	35,000	Exchequer	213.2	0.16
Waltham Forest	4,400	Exchequer	224.1	0.02
Westminster	2,641,425	Exchequer	244.4	10.81

Financial Year 2005/06

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barnet	341,000	Lottery	329.7	1.03
Bexley	717,302	Lottery	220.3	3.26
Brent	186,412	Lottery	270.1	0.69
Bromley	1,761,528	Lottery	301.9	5.83
Camden	2,165,010	Lottery	226.1	9.58
City of London	187,530	Lottery	9.2	20.38
Croydon	438,855	Lottery	342.7	1.28
Ealing	155,328	Lottery	301.8	0.51
Enfield	13,086	Lottery	280.5	0.05
Greenwich	2,193,000	Lottery	228.1	9.61
Hammersmith and Fulham	11,146,093	Lottery	179.9	61.96
Haringey	53,340	Lottery	224.5	0.24
Havering	123,165	Lottery	226.2	0.54
Hillingdon	300,984	Lottery	252.4	1.19
Hounslow	3,832,520	Lottery	212.5	18.04
Islington	25,074	Lottery	182.6	0.14
Lewisham	173,165	Lottery	247.5	0.70
Newham	146,400	Lottery	246.2	0.59
Redbridge	40,000	Lottery	251.5	0.16
Southwark	1,312,648	Lottery	257.7	5.09
Tower Hamlets	123,650	Lottery	213.2	0.58
Waltham Forest	697,265	Lottery	224.1	3.11
Wandsworth	75,000	Lottery	281.4	0.27
Westminster	3,323,853	Lottery	244.4	54.52

Financial Year 2005/06

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Camden	8,572,100	Exchequer	226.1	37.91
City of London	59,667	Exchequer	9.2	6.49
Enfield	63,686	Exchequer	280.5	0.23
Greenwich	5,833	Exchequer	228.1	0.03
Hackney	192,000	Exchequer	207.7	0.92
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,352,699	Exchequer	179.9	24.20
Hounslow	743,341	Exchequer	212.5	3.50
Islington	586,817	Exchequer	182.6	3.21
Lambeth	85,000	Exchequer	269.1	0.32
Newham	20,000	Exchequer	246.2	0.08
Redbridge	24,848	Exchequer	251.5	0.10
Richmond upon Thames	3,029,564	Exchequer	186.3	16.26
Southwark	1,210,479	Exchequer	257.7	4.70
Tower Hamlets	31,667	Exchequer	213.2	0.15
Wandsworth	61,000	Exchequer	281.4	0.22
Westminster	7,261,269	Exchequer	244.4	29.71

Financial Year 2006/07

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Bexley	1,387,996	Lottery	220.3	6.30
Bromley	1,630,200	Lottery	301.9	5.40
Camden	3,254,411	Lottery	226.1	14.39
City of London	61,667	Lottery	9.2	6.70
Croydon	170,000	Lottery	342.7	0.50
Greenwich	6,000,000	Lottery	228.1	26.30
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,247,000	Lottery	179.9	12.49
Haringey	67,971	Lottery	224.5	0.30
Hounslow	4,567,969	Lottery	212.5	21.50
Islington	20,000	Lottery	182.6	0.11
Lambeth	293,855	Lottery	269.1	1.09
Newham	50,000	Lottery	246.2	0.20
Richmond upon Thames	131,233	Lottery	186.3	0.70
Southwark	1,587,213	Lottery	257.7	6.16
Tower Hamlets	375,237	Lottery	213.2	1.76
Westminster	16,065,557	Lottery	244.4	65.73

Financial Year 2006/07

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	60,194	Exchequer	164.5	0.37
Bromley	18,429	Exchequer	301.9	0.06
Camden	4,703,716	Exchequer	226.1	20.80
Croydon	45,000	Exchequer	342.7	0.13
Enfield	571,305	Exchequer	280.5	2.04
Greenwich	11,167	Exchequer	228.1	0.05
Hackney	227,000	Exchequer	207.7	1.09
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,045,415	Exchequer	179.9	28.05
Havering	90,118	Exchequer	226.2	0.40
Hillingdon	174,228	Exchequer	252.4	0.69
Hounslow	401,475	Exchequer	212.5	1.89
Islington	813,000	Exchequer	182.6	4.45
Lambeth	42,490	Exchequer	269.1	0.16
Redbridge	928,687	Exchequer	251.5	3.69
Richmond upon Thames	3,889,682	Exchequer	186.3	20.88
Southwark	1,876,568	Exchequer	257.7	7.28
Tower Hamlets	3,333	Exchequer	213.2	0.02
Waltham Forest	24,500	Exchequer	224.1	0.11
Wandsworth	48,000	Exchequer	281.4	0.17
Westminster	26,211,245	Exchequer	244.4	107.25

Financial Year 2007/08

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	802,092	Lottery	164.5	4.88
Barnet	688,624	Lottery	329.7	2.09
Bromley	349,959	Lottery	301.9	1.16
Camden	1,963,293	Lottery	226.1	8.68
Croydon	710,298	Lottery	342.7	2.07
Greenwich	235,500	Lottery	228.1	1.03
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,863,008	Lottery	179.9	10.36
Haringey	60,209	Lottery	224.5	0.27
Havering	75,000	Lottery	226.2	0.33
Hillingdon	2,220,270	Lottery	252.4	8.80
Hounslow	2,935,315	Lottery	212.5	13.81
Islington	319,277	Lottery	182.6	1.75
Newham	1,000,000	Lottery	246.2	4.06
Richmond upon Thames	150,000	Lottery	186.3	0.81
Southwark	1,873,956	Lottery	257.7	7.27
Sutton	415,396	Lottery	177.7	2.34
Tower Hamlets	2,583,925	Lottery	213.2	12.12
Westminster	3,278,265	Lottery	244.4	13.41

Financial Year 2007/08

London borough	*Total (£)*	*Funding*	*Population (Thousand)*	*Per capita (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	20,000	Exchequer	164.5	0.12
Brent	3,550	Exchequer	270.1	0.01
Croydon	20,000	Exchequer	342.7	0.06
Southwark	1,720,985	Exchequer	257.7	6.68

The Westminster figure includes funding for the Football Foundation which is a programme that delivers nationally.

Further Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many year 11 pupils who did not gain five A* to C GCSEs did not enter further education or training in 2007; [217210]

(2) how many and what proportion of year 11 pupils with special educational needs did not enter further post-16 education in 2007. [217211]

Jim Knight: The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) and Youth Cohort Study (YCS) both provide information on the activities of young people who have completed compulsory education. The following table is based on combined survey responses in spring 2007 for the cohort of young people who were in Year 11 in 2005/06. It gives the proportions for those who were not in full-time education and those who were not in any form of education or training post-16:

Percentage

	spring 2007	
Year 11 pupils (2005/06)	*Not in full-time education*	*Not in any education or training*
Without five A*-C GCSEs	49	23
With special educational needs	44	23

Source:
LSYPE, wave 4, YCS, Cohort 13, sweep 1

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were entered for A2 examinations did not gain an A level above a C grade in 2007. [217184]

Jim Knight: 254,535 candidates aged 16 to 18 were entered for a total of 718,754 GCE A-level examinations in 2006-07 in all schools and colleges. Of these, 26,674 candidates (10.5 per cent.) did not achieve any A, B or C grades and 196,647 individual entries (27.4 per cent.) were not awarded a grade A, B or C.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of year 13 students were entered for A-level examinations in each year since 1997. [217185]

Jim Knight: The number of year 13 students entered for A-level examinations in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

Number of year 13 students entered for A-level examinations years 1996-97 to 2006-07. Coverage: England

Year[1]	*Number*
1996-97	231,257
1997-98	236,028
1998-99	236,016
1999-2000	231,351
2000-01	241,013
2001-02	257,922
2002-03	268,671
2003-04	265,257
2004-05	263,635
2005-06[2]	258,285
2006-07[2]	249,552

[1] The 2006-07 figure is based on revised data. Other years are based on final data.

[2] From 2005-06 the figures refer to students entered for GCEA/CE/Applied A levels and Double Awards.

The Department does not collect information on the numbers starting A-level courses so information on proportions is not available.

The figures were taken from the following Departmental Statistical First Releases: GCEA/CE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006-07 (Revised) (Table 1), accessible via:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

and GCEA/CE A/AS Examination Results for Young People in England 2004-05 (Final) (Table 3), accessible via:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000663/index.shtml

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtained one GCSE in each year since 1997. [217176]

Jim Knight: Figures can be found in the following table.

Number and percentage of 15-year-old pupils who achieved at least one GCSE, in each year since 1997

	Number	*Percentage*
2007	625,630	95.3
2006	616,960	95.1
2005	603,993	94.9
2004	608,057	94.5
2003	588,375	94.6
2002	573,230	94.5
2001	569,671	94.4
2000	547,488	94.3
1999	545,375	93.0
1998	536,830	93.3
1997	541,692	92.3

Notes:

1. Based on pupils aged 15 at start of academic year i.e. 31 August.
2. These figures are based on GCSEs only and do not include achievements in other equivalent qualifications.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many schools in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation fewer than 50 per cent. of pupils gained five A* to C GCSEs in 2007; [217177]

(2) what proportion of pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain five GCSEs at any grade in each year since 2004; [217178]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain level 4 in a combination of writing, reading and mathematics tests at key stage 2 in 2007; [217179]

(4) how many pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain level 5 in a combination of writing, reading and mathematics tests at key stage 3 in 2007; [217180]

(5) how many and what proportion of pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain level 4 in key stage 2 English in 2007; [217181]

(6) how many pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not achieve level 5 or higher in key stage 3 English tests in each of the last 10 years; [217190]

(7) how many pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation sat A-level examinations in 2007; [217191]

(8) how many pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not gain a GCSE, excluding equivalents, in 2007; [217192]

(9) how many and what proportion of pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not gain five A* to C GCSEs including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language in 2007; [217194]

(10) how many and what proportion of pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation have a statement of special educational needs; [217195]

(11) how many non-statemented pupils with special educational needs there are in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation; [217196]

(12) how many year 11 pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation were not entered for English or mathematics GCSE examinations in 2007; [217207]

(13) how many pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation were not entered for three separate sciences at GCSE in 2007; [217208]

(14) how many year 11 pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation were not entered for a modern languages GCSE examination in 2007; [217209]

(15) how many year 13 pupils in areas of each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain three A-levels above a C grade in 2007; [217212]

(16) how many year 11 pupils in areas in each decile of multiple deprivation did not obtain a *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* science GCSE at C grade or above in 2007. [217213]

Jim Knight: Currently published attainment by deprivation of school location and pupil residency is available at the following locations. Additional information and information on special educational needs by deprivation can be produced only at disproportionate cost:

Key Stage 2: (Table 11)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

Key Stage 3: (Table 14)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000776/index.shtml

GCSE and Equivalent: (Table 21)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

A Level: (Table 13)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

Pupil Characteristics (residency-based attainment): (IDACI-table)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of deaf and hard of hearing children gained five or more GCSEs at grade C and above in the Peterborough City Council area in the last year for which figures are available; [216334]

(2) what proportion of children gained at least two A-levels in the Peterborough City Council area in the last year for which figures are available; [216335]

(3) what proportion of deaf and hard of hearing children gained at least two A-levels in the Peterborough City Council area in the last year for which figures are available. [216337]

Jim Knight: 94.6 per cent. of candidates at the end of A/AS level (or equivalent) study achieved at least two A-levels in Peterborough local authority by the end of 2006/07.

Figures for deaf and hard of hearing children are available only at disproportionate cost.

Physics: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools do not offer a physics GCSE course. [217197]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on schools that offer particular subjects at GCSE—only on those that enter pupils for the examinations. In 2007, 1,092 maintained mainstream schools (34.1 per cent.) entered one or more pupils for GCSE physics.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the evaluation of the Early Learning Partnership Project; what steps he plans to take in respect of the evaluation; and if he will make a statement. [217649]

Beverley Hughes: The Department commissioned the University of Oxford to undertake the national evaluation of this project. I welcome their findings, in particular, that it developed understanding and skills among practitioners on engaging parents in their children's early learning and showed how to reach and engage some vulnerable families in disadvantaged areas. The lessons from the project will inform ongoing work with the voluntary sector and local authorities to improve support for parents and their young children, including the family support strand of the expanded two year old pilot. As an early step, on 25 June we held a national dissemination event on the project outcomes for local authority Early Years Leads, commissioners of parenting and children's services and voluntary sector providers and we have circulated a briefing on learning from the project to these groups. Other steps include the production of a resource kit demonstrating good practice on working with fathers.

Primary Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of year 6 pupils obtained Level 4C in key stage 2 tests in each of the last 10 years. [217206]

Jim Knight: Level 4c is not a valid national curriculum level. The following table shows the readily available information on pupils achieving level 4 in Key Stage 2 tests.

Proportion of pupils achieving Level 4 in KS2 subjects and total number of eligible pupils

	English		Mathematics		Science	
	Percentage	Number (Thousand)	Percentage	Number (Thousand)	Percentage	Number (Thousand)
1998	48	608.1	42	608.3	53	608.1
1999	48	628.8	45	629.0	51	628.6
2000	46	623.4	47	623.7	50	623.3
2001	46	633.5	45	633.5	53	633.3
2002	46	641.3	46	640.8	49	641.1
2003	48	637.1	44	637.2	46	637.0
2004	50	612.3	43	612.7	43	612.6
2005	52	609.6	44	609.9	40	609.6
2006	47	594.1	43	594.2	41	594.1
2007	47	586.7	45	587.2	41	586.9

Notes:

1. Figures for 2007 are based on revised data. Figures for all other years are based on final data.

2. This information is taken from table 1 of SFR41/2007

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

Primary Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W, on primary education: standards, how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived local authorities and *(b)* the 10 per cent. least deprived local authorities achieved the national standard in each Key Stage 1 examination in each year since 1995. [217567]

Jim Knight: The number and percentage of Key Stage 1 pupils achieving Level 2 or above attending schools located in the 10 per cent most deprived areas and the 10 per cent. least deprived areas, as classified by IDACI, is given as follows for 1997, 2005 and 2007. Further years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Mathematics		*Reading*		*Writing*		*Science*	
	Percentage	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*
1997								
All	84	512,710	80	489,518	80	490,220	n/a	n/a
10 per cent. most deprived	75	52,525	69	48,063	69	48,265	n/a	n/a
10 per cent. least deprived	91	44,021	89	43,136	89	43,027	n/a	n/a
2005								
All	91	517,999	85	484,803	82	469,169	90	510,523
10 per cent. most deprived	84	50,237	75	44,705	71	42,488	80	48,116
10 per cent. least deprived	95	48,291	92	46,693	90	45,612	95	48,315
2007								
All	90	491,352	84	457,904	80	439,007	89	485,774
10 per cent. most deprived	82	47,552	73	42,279	68	39,515	80	45,954
10 per cent. least deprived	95	47,099	91	45,364	89	44,142	95	47,189

n/a = Not available

Notes

1. Prior to 2004, results of pupils in tasks/tests at Key Stage 1 were reported alongside teacher assessments.

2. In 2004, new assessment arrangements where only teacher assessments (informed by task/test results) were reported were trialled in some LAs. In 2005 this trial was rolled out to all LAs and from 2005 to date teacher assessments, informed by the outcomes of national tasks and tests are reported. As a result, figures for results from 2005 and 2007 in the table are not directly comparable with those for 1997, and care is needed in interpreting trends in the data.

Due to a change in policy, the figures for 2005 onwards are taken from teacher assessment results.

3. Teacher assessments for science were only reported from 2005 onwards. Prior to 2005, test/task results for science are not available.

Private Education: Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has spent on working with independent schools to develop the new diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [216211]

Jim Knight: To date, there has been no expenditure by either the Department and its predecessor or the QCA specifically on working with independent schools to develop the new diplomas.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* holding and *(b)* organising the national conference for independent schools to discuss the new diplomas. [216608]

Jim Knight: The cost to the Department of holding and organising the national conference on '14-19 Reforms and Independent Schools' last December in London was some £54,000.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* holding and *(b)* organising the seminar for independent schools which have expressed an interest in offering diploma courses. [216610]

Jim Knight: The cost to the Department of holding and organising the seminar on 28 April in London was some £3,000.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent schools have expressed an interest in offering diploma courses. [216611]

Jim Knight: The following 13 independent schools expressed an interest in delivering diplomas following the national conference last December:

Culcheth Hall School, Trafford
Bootham School, York
Batley Grammar, Kirklees
Milton Abbey, Dorset
Worksop College, Nottinghamshire
Leicester Grammar, Leicestershire
Frewen College, East Sussex
St. Leonards Mayfield School, East Sussex
Queen Ethelburga's College, North Yorkshire
Clayesmore School, Dorset
Wellington College, Berkshire
Brighton College, East Sussex
Stanbridge Earls School, Hampshire

In addition, Polam Hall school in Darlington and Hammond school in Cheshire are partners in consortia that have approval to deliver diplomas in 2009.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent schools have been approved for diploma delivery in September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [216612]

Jim Knight: Two independent schools are members of consortia approved to deliver diplomas from 2009.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to allow independent schools to offer diplomas outside consortia with other schools and colleges; and if he will make a statement. [216613]

Jim Knight: It is important for Diplomas to be available in all parts of the schools sector. We are working to encourage independent schools to become involved in Diploma delivery. Diplomas require, in almost all circumstances, collaborative working to achieve delivery of lines wherever specialist provision, equipment and teaching is essential and in the delivery of all three levels. Diplomas also require links with employers to provide the mandatory ten days work experience in a relevant professional setting.

As part of the local 14-19 partnership, we would expect the independent school to collaborate with other providers including, for example, schools, colleges, training providers, employers and higher education institutions.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils studied in pupil referral units in each year since 1997. [217189]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of pupils in pupil referral units in each year since 1997:

	Headcount[1]
1998	7,740
1999	8,260
2000	8,480
2001	9,290
2002	9,960
2003	12,010
2004	13,040
2005	14,470
2006	15,240
2007	15,160

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

These figures can be found in table 1 of the Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007 (Final)"

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

2008 data will be published towards the end of July.

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many non-statemented special educational needs pupils are studying in pupil referral units. [217188]

Jim Knight: The number of non-statemented special educational needs pupils studying in pupil referral units in 2008 is 7,590. This figure excludes dually registered pupils and includes pupils from other providers. The figure can be found in table 1b of the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England, January 2008'

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per student will be made available for each student taking a *(a)* diploma, *(b)* GCSE, *(c)* A-level and *(d)* BTEC course in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [216512]

Jim Knight: Funding for 'pre-16 education' does not vary by type or number of qualifications taken, so there is not a distinct level of funding for a student taking a GCSE. We estimate the 'average' level of funding per year for 14 to 16-year-olds undertaking key stage 4 (KS4) in 2007-08 is £4,106. This figure excludes grants (including schools standards grant, school development grant and other non-delegated funding to schools).

Additional funding is provided to local authorities for 14 to 16-year-olds taking diplomas through the diploma specific grant to reflect the additional costs arising from the practical, applied nature of the learning. The level of funding will vary according to the diploma line and level being studied as shown in the following table.

Diploma line	*Level*	*Amount per place (£)*
Engineering	Level 1	957.21
	Level 2	1,277.95
Society, Health and Development	Level 1	824.74
	Level 2	1,101.07
Construction	Level 1	957.21
	Level 2	1,277.95
IT	Level 1	824.74
	Level 2	1,101.07
Creative and Media	Level 1	736.30
	Level 2	957.21

The level of diploma grant to LAs with diploma pupils also includes an allowance for additional costs arising in areas with relatively sparse populations and large distances between institutions between which pupils may need to travel. The average level of funding is £1,000 per student per year. Funding of '16 to 18-year-olds' is based on the size of the learning programmes they study; factors pertaining to the institution where study takes place including disadvantage, area costs and success rates; and any additional support that individual learners may need.

An illustrative example of funding that a school sixth form would receive over two years for a student on a diploma, A-level and Edexcel national diploma vocational programme respectively, and excluding institutional and individual learner factors, is as follows:

	£
Advance Diploma	8,914
3 A levels (3 AS, 3A2)	7,383
Edexcel BTEC National Diploma	8,561

Religion: Education

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued to local education authorities on the extent to which pupils are required to participate in religious observance when such observance forms part of a religious education lesson; and if he will make a statement. [217574]

Jim Knight: No specific guidance on religious observance within religious education has been issued to local authorities, and the issue is not covered in either Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship or the National Framework for Religious Education (QCA, 2004). Religious education syllabi for non-denominational schools are set at local authority level by Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs). Each locally agreed syllabus must take into account not only Christianity but the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in the country. Local syllabuses should not require religious observance within RE.

The Department is currently updating circular 1/94 with regard to religious education. Parents continue to have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of religious education.

Schools: Transport

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from local education authorities on the effect of increases in the cost of fuel on the provision of school bus services; and if he will make a statement. [217240]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has not received any recent representations from local authorities regarding the effect of the increases in the cost of fuel on the provision of school bus services. We are aware from the Department for Transport's on-going discussions with bus operators that there are concerns about the impact of increased fuel costs on school bus services. However, the responsibility for determining school transport arrangements including agreeing the cost of school transport contracts with local bus operators is a matter for local authorities.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of places which will be available on diploma courses in *(a)* September 2008 and *(b)* September 2009; and if he will make a statement; [216212]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of pupils expected to enrol on a diploma course in *(a)* September 2008 and *(b)* September 2009; and if he will make a statement; [216213]

(3) what his latest estimate is of the number of places there will be on diploma courses in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12; how many students he expects to be studying for diplomas in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [216510]

Jim Knight: In September 2008 38,000 diploma places will be available; to date approximately 20,000 pupils have signed up for a diploma course. These figures are estimates because many young people will not yet have made a decision about which qualifications to undertake. The capacity in the system is increasing rapidly and 317 groups of schools, colleges and training providers will introduce new diplomas from 2009—the number of places available and young people enrolling on the courses will be determined over the coming months. Places for 2010 and beyond will be determined by consortiums and local 14-19 Partnerships through local planning and will be subject to approval through the Gateway process.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the completion rate of the new diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [216214]

Jim Knight: Our focus has been on developing high quality diploma qualifications which have the support of higher education and employers. The first learners have yet to start their qualifications therefore we have no reliable basis for any estimates of completion.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department are working on the development and introduction of diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [216511]

Jim Knight: There are 30 staff working specifically on the diploma, with many more of the 138 involved in 14-19 reform having some role in ensuring their successful delivery.

Specialised Diplomas: Consultants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has spent on employing external consultants to advise on the new diplomas in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [216206]

Jim Knight: The amount spent on employing consultants by the Department and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to advise on the new diplomas in each year since 2005 is as follows:

(a) DCSF

	£ million
2004-05	0
2005-06	0

(a) DCSF

	£ million
2006-07	0.7
2007-08	2.54
Total	3.24

(b) QCA

	£ million
2004-05	0
2005-06	0.5
2006-07	8.0
2007-08	10.5
Total	19.0

Specialised Diplomas: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets have been set for the effectiveness of the new diplomas in each year since 2005; what the targets are now; and if he will make a statement. [216506]

Jim Knight: No targets have been set for the diploma. We are committed to fully evaluating each phase of the diploma to assess how effectively it has been implemented and the impact it is having on the participation and achievement of young people. Delivery of the diploma will also be subject to independent inspection by Ofsted.

Speech Therapy: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time speech and language therapists are employed in *(a)* youth offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres. [214623]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not held centrally.

The responsibility for commissioning health services in young offender institutions and adult prisons in England has been fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) since April 2006. PCTs work with establishments to develop comprehensive health needs assessments of their populations and then commission on the basis of that need. Provision of treatment for speech, language and communication problems will therefore differ depending on the locality and on the specific needs of the individual concerned.

All young offenders receive health screening on reception into prison and in addition will be screened for their educational needs. A new reception screen for young people has been developed by the Youth Justice Board and is being piloted. It contains a section looking at disability and impairment, which contains a question designed to identify speech difficulties in young people entering custody.

A general learning needs assessment is used to identify all learning difficulties and disabilities. As part of this process, a member of education staff may have concerns about a prisoner's speech and language capability. Where such problems are identified, either as a result of the health screen or the education screen, a referral to an appropriate health professional would be expected to be made.

The Youth Justice Board manages contracts with the operators of secure training centres which provide requirements for the services to be delivered to young people accommodated within the centres. These contracts reflect and expand upon the National Standards for Youth Justice Services. Health services in secure training centres are the responsibility of the secure training centre operators who are contracted to deliver health care broadly in line with national health service standards. Trainees in custody at the secure training centre will be entitled to a basic monthly medical examination and/or health assessment by health care staff at the secure training centre and will have access to national health service facilities and specialists when clinically required.

Teachers: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided to defray the university tuition fees of newly-qualified teachers in each of the last five years; what the planned funding for each of the next five years is; and if he will make a statement. [217268]

Jim Knight: This Department does not provide funding specifically to defray the university tuition fees of people training to be teachers.

Teachers: Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated to the implementation of the new pay arrangements for part-time unqualified and supply teachers before the start of the 2008-09 academic year; and if he will make a statement. [217450]

Jim Knight: The proposed changes to pay arrangements for part-time, unqualified and short notice teachers for the 2008-09 academic year will have a minor administrative cost which can be met from within the existing funding settlement.

Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher vacancies there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Bexley and (ii) London in the last period for which figures are available. [216883]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of vacancies for full-time qualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Bexley local authority (LA) the London government office region and England for January 2007 and 2008, the latest information available at the local authority and regional levels respectively.

Full-time vacancy[1] numbers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools schools[2]—coverage: Bexley LA, London and England, January 2007 and 2008

	Bexley		London		England	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
2008[3]	n/a	n/a	214	304	872	1,471
2007	1	12	221	253	658	1,214

n/a = Not available.

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one terms duration), includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis by a teacher with a contract of less than one term.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Provisional.

Source:

Annual survey of teacher numbers and vacancies, 618g

The latest information on teacher vacancies was published in April 2008 at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

Vacancy numbers and rates for 2008 by local authority, including Bexley, are expected to be published in September.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Arms Trade

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1850W, on Burma: arms trade, how many times criterion 7 of the Consolidated EU and National Export and Licensing Criteria has been breached in respect of Burma since October 2007; and if he will list the instances. [216714]

Meg Munn: The EU arms embargo on Burma has been in place since 1996. We are not aware of any EU supplied equipment reaching Burma in breach of the embargo either directly or via a third country since October 2007. Were we to have concerns that goods covered by a UK export licence application might be diverted via a third country to Burma in breach of the embargo, and in contravention of criterion 7 of the EU and National Export Licensing Criteria, the application would be refused.

We continue to vigorously enforce the EU Common Position on Burma with the co-operation of our EU partners.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1850W, on Burma: arms trade, what further UN action the Government has proposed relating to the regime in Burma in light of the undemocratic nature of the referendum on the constitution in May. [216726]

Meg Munn: On 2 May the UN Security Council (UNSC), under UK chairmanship, issued a presidential statement in advance of the 10 May referendum underlining the need for an inclusive and credible political process, including full participation of all political actors and ethnic groups and respect for fundamental political freedoms. The UNSC also reaffirmed its previous demands, including the release of all political prisoners.

Since 2 May, the humanitarian crisis in Burma caused by cyclone Nargis has been our priority. However, the political situation in the country remains a cause of deep concern and the need for political change is stronger than ever. The referendum was deeply flawed and the results lack all credibility.

We will work to refocus international efforts on the political situation and are exploring options with our international partners for further UN action, including in the UNSC, to encourage political progress. We continue to give our full support to the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the participation of Russia has been in the EU military operation in Chad. [216645]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU has encouraged third countries to support the UN-mandated EU military operation in Chad. This has led to an offer of assistance from Albania which was approved by the EU Council on 6 June. Russia has also offered assistance in the form of four transport helicopters. Deployment of these helicopters is unlikely to take place before mid-August, subject to the success of current technical negotiations in Brussels. We will keep the relevant parliamentary committees updated as the situation develops.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made by the Council Sanctions Committee on individual sanctions under UN Security Council Resolution 1698 against armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo that recruit child soldiers. [216747]

Meg Munn: The sanctions provisions of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1698 (2006) have been renewed by UNSCR 1807 (2008) which, inter alia, calls for sanctions to be applied to political and military leaders operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that are recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in violation of applicable international law.

The UN has designated 22 individuals and entities under DRC related sanctions for impeding the political process and/or violating the arms embargo. Although no individuals have been specifically designated for the use of child soldiers, it is suspected that a number of designated individuals have recruited or used child soldiers in the territory of the DRC.

In February 2008, the UK called for further efforts to be made by the Government of the DRC on the use of child soldiers during an Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict at the UN. In June, the Security Council raised the issue of child soldiers with President Kabila during the Council's visit to the DRC. The UK stands ready to consider the use of further sanctions against those recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in violation of UNSCR 1807 (2008).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Rape

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports the proposal for the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into the use of rape as a war crime in eastern Congo. [216723]

Meg Munn: The UK supports the efforts of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor to combat impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo by investigating rape and widespread sexual violence within the whole spectrum of criminality that falls under the ICC's jurisdiction.

Departmental Press Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215210]

Meg Munn: The budget from which the monthly figures in the following table are reported includes all publications (newspapers, press cuttings, periodicals and electronic information subscriptions) used by staff in the UK and overseas to support the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's research and decision-making.

Variations in spend, by month, can be attributed to whether renewal of subscriptions are annual, quarterly or monthly.

£

	2007-08	*2006-07*
April	484,208.39	37,730.72
May	32,875.79	371,499.18
June	263,504.33	192,189.33
July	232,900.38	409,955.37
August	156,317.56	193,074.92
September	225,427.80	330,550.70
October	266,304.19	290,407.54
November	124,178.76	242,586.29
December	-114,148.69	96,093.77
January	237,062.14	211,821.60
February	149,621.42	171,259.76
March	309,660.09	287,430.39
Adjustment	-12,699.51	-373,409.64
Total	2,355,212.65	2,461,189.93

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216699]

Meg Munn: The number of days on which UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were absent because of illness are set out in the following table:

	Days of recorded absence for sickness	
	Total number	*Average per employee*
2005	20,904	3.4
2006	19,102	3.1
2007	21,352	3.6

We do not hold central records for staff sickness absences before 2005.

Diplomatic Service: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many residences of foreign diplomats there are in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex. [216497]

Meg Munn: According to our records, there are no foreign diplomats currently living in Castle Point and 21 foreign diplomats currently living in Essex.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications have been received from Iraqi nationals for UK assistance under the *(a)* Gateway and *(b)* Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme; from which countries these applications have been received; and if he will make a statement. [217009]

Meg Munn: The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is responsible for referring cases to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) for consideration under the Gateway Protection Programme. To date, UKBA has received 422 applications from Iraqi nationals for resettlement under the Gateway Programme.

We have received a total of 1,247 applications under the Locally Employed (LE) Staff Assistance Scheme. 817 of these are from former staff for consideration under the Gateway Programme of which 351 have been assessed as eligible. Of these, 175 have chosen the financial package, 144 have opted for Gateway and 32 have yet to express their preference.

The vast majority of applications for assistance under the LE Scheme have come from Iraq but we have also received some from Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Canada, Thailand, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, India and the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to reply to the e-mails of 22 April 2008 and 6 June 2008 from the office of the hon. Member for Eastbourne relating to his constituent Mrs. Dennison and her grandchildren who are unable to leave Iraq. [216732]

Meg Munn: The e-mails of 22 April 2008 and 6 June 2008 have been forwarded to the UK Border Agency who will be replying to the hon. Member.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made since July 2007 of the impact of actions taken by *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Syria to support and arm terrorist groups operating against the State of Israel on regional stability and security; and if he will make a statement. [217914]

Dr. Howells: Both Iran and Syria offer support to Palestinian rejectionist groups. Such support undermines the prospects for a just and lasting settlement, in which the two states of Israel and Palestine can live side by side in peace and security. We call on both countries to cease their support for these groups and renounce all links to terrorism.

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to support the government of Mahmoud Abbas; and if he will make a statement. [214048]

Meg Munn: The UK actively supports President Abbas and the Government of the Palestinian Authority. We have made clear our commitment to helping all Palestinians. The UK is engaged in supporting the development of Palestinian security. At the Berlin Conference on 24 June, the UK committed £2.7 million in 2008 and £4.5 million over the next three years to help these efforts. Prior to this, on 2 April, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced £32 million to help the Palestinians. This will double our contribution to the Palestinians for 2007-08 to a new total of £63.6 million.

Somalia: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on actions to be taken in response to breaches of the UN arms embargo to Somalia; what consideration he has given to increasing the number of Somali individuals subject to the travel ban and asset freeze as a result of embargo breaches; and what steps the Government is taking to ensure that individuals breaching the embargo are *(a)* identified and *(b)* subject to punitive measures. [216796]

Meg Munn: The UK takes seriously all allegations of breaches of the UN arms embargo against Somalia. Consistent with relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, most recently UNSC resolution 1814 (2008), the UK fully supports the implementation of targeted measures against those who breach the arms embargo and those who support them in so doing.

At present, there are no targeted measures in support of the embargo. However, the UK is committed to working in the UNSC and in its relevant sanctions committee to strengthen the effectiveness of the arms embargo, including the ongoing consideration of such measures and the individuals and entities to whom they should apply.

Sudan: Arms Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take further to restrict the supply of arms to Sudan; and what discussions he is having to this effect at the UN. [216553]

Meg Munn: The UK asked the UN Sanctions Committee of 6 November 2007 to extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all UN Security Council (UNSC) members agreed. Since then, we have raised the issue whenever Sudan has been discussed in the UNSC and elsewhere, for example at the UN/African Union led talks on Darfur in Geneva on 5 June.

On 12 June 2008, the UK reiterated in the UNSC the need for all parties to adhere to the arms embargo on Darfur. We will continue to press for an extension of the arms embargo.

The EU continues to operate an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan.

West Africa: Peace Negotiations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Chairman of the African Union on the progress of peace talks following the fighting on the Djibouti-Eritrea border. [213809]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, attended the African Union (AU) Summit in Sharm el Sheikh from 30 June to 1 July. At the Summit, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown held a number of bilateral meetings with various members and representatives of the AU. As the main focus of the summit and bilateral meetings was Zimbabwe, the opportunity to raise the issue of the Djibouti/Eritrea border did not arise.

We call on Eritrea to enter into a bilateral dialogue with Djibouti to resolve peacefully any outstanding issues between them and to avoid increasing tension in the region.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African Development Bank

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on *(a)* which countries the African Development Bank has experienced the most problems with in transforming the funding given into successful and long-term projects and *(b)* how the Bank hopes to resolve these problems, as referred to in his Department's most recent departmental report. [217044]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As a shareholder, the UK receives information from African Development Bank Management on a range of issues including the proportion of "problem projects". This information is not broken down by country.

In the last two years, the bank has implemented a series of reforms to improve their ability to provide high quality assistance to African countries. It recognises that it needs to improve further, and specific measures and targets were agreed as part of the African Development Fund replenishment negotiations last year. These are detailed in the African Development Fund Eleventh Replenishment: Deputies Report, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate has been made of the number of Burmese refugees who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since September 2007, broken down by country. [216724]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The most recent figures date from the end of 2007, when the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that the total of Burmese refugees living outside the country was 191,267, located as follows:

	Number of refugees living outside the country
Thailand	124,562
Malaysia	29,417
Bangladesh	27,544
United States	5,334

These figures include only people formally registered and approved as refugees. They do not include asylum seekers or economic migrants.

We do not have figures to indicate specific outflows since September 2007.

Burma: Famine

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people suffering from famine in Chin state in northwest Burma; and what assistance the Government has given to relief efforts. [216716]

Mr. Malik: Food security in the already vulnerable Chin State dramatically worsened at the end of 2007 and early 2008 due to a rat infestation. The worst affected areas appear to be remote villages in townships along the Indian border in central and southern Chin Tahntlang, Matupi and Paletwa townships. Comprehensive figures of the total affected population are not currently available, but the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be undertaking a more thorough assessment of the situation in the coming weeks.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing support of £4 million over four years to UNDP for its national human development initiative, which includes work in all the townships of Chin State. The UNDP has helped villages to rebuild their livelihoods and address food insecurity in affected villages in Paletwa and Tahntlang townships.

We will consider the case for further directed assistance to affected populations in Chin State on the basis of UNDP's assessment.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of helicopter aid lift for humanitarian operation in Burma; and what steps the Government is taking with its international partners to ensure adequate capability. [216718]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: During the second half of June the World Food Programme (WFP) succeeded in bringing 10 helicopters into Burma to support the relief operation. These have facilitated needs assessments and have flown supplies to 60 different locations in the Delta including five that had not previously been reached by any aid.

Given the increasing use of boats, the expensive nature of helicopter operations and the fact that most assessments have now taken place, WFP has scaled down to only five helicopters from 1 July.

WFP is currently facing a 50 per cent. shortfall in funding for its whole logistics operation. Agencies are being encouraged to reduce reliance on the air bridge and to build transport costs into forthcoming appeals. We are in close contact with other donors, encouraging them to increase their funding for WFP's logistics appeal. The UK has already contributed £5 million to the overall WFP logistics operation.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of visas granted to relief workers by the Burmese authorities to assist those affected by Cyclone Nargis. [216717]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We do not know the total number of visas issued to humanitarian workers since Cyclone Nargis, as this information is held within the Burmese Ministry of Social Welfare. However, we have noted a significant increase in the numbers and length of visas being issued to humanitarian workers since the 25 May UN/ASEAN conference. For example, UN staff have been issued with 302 visas in the May to July period, of which 77 have been extended. Department for International Development (DFID) staff have been issued with 19 visas since the cyclone hit.

China: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department has made to the government of China on upholding its commitment to the UN Call to Action on the Millennium Development Goals. [217019]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: China signed the Call to Action during the visit of the Prime Minister to China in January 2008. Further discussions on how China would participate in the Call to Action were held by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the UK-China High-Level Economic and Financial Dialogue in April.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department has established for projects to be supported through the Civil Society Challenge Fund; in which countries the projects supplied by the funds in 2006-07 were located; what the five projects receiving the most funding were; and what organisations administered each. [217225]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The criteria for projects supported through the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) are set out on the Department for International Development's external website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/civilsocietyguidelines08.asp

Projects supplied by the funds in 2006-07 were located in the following countries: Afghanistan; Albania; Bangladesh; Bolivia; Bosnia; Brazil; Cambodia; Cameroon; China; Colombia; Democratic Republic of Congo; East Timor; Ecuador; Ethiopia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guyana; India; Indonesia; Kenya; Kiribati; Republic of Kyrgyzstan; Laos; Lebanon; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Republic of Moldova; Mozambique; Namibia; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Pakistan; Palestine; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; Republic of South Africa; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Tanzania; Togo; Uganda; Ukraine; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. There were also a number of regional projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The five projects receiving the most funding during 2006-07 and the organisations administering these are listed in the following table:

Project title	*Organisation*	*Country or region*	*Funding in 2006-07 (£)*
Youth Opportunities	Coda International Training (CIT)	Palestine	196,462
Self Help and Advocacy	Handicap International	Bosnia	188,193
Dynamic Advocacy	Interact Worldwide	Latin America	186,204
Human Rights	Concern Worldwide	Tanzania	180,412
Rights to Seed	Harvest Help	Zambia	179,842

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215552]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the 12 months ending 31 March 2008, 2,974 domestic flights were undertaken by Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers and officials at a cost of £774,682.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average cost to his Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215189]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The average salary cost incurred by the Department for International Development in employing press and media staff in 2007-08 was £42,728[1] per annum (including the employer's share of pension and national insurance contributions).

[1] Based on salary rates effective from 1 August 2007

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212052]

Gillian Merron: Branding and marketing is an integral part of communicating the work of the Department for International Development (DFID) to relevant audiences. Our approach follows the advice of the Government Communications Network which can be found at http://www.comms.gov.uk/. Activity includes implementing development programmes; policy consultation with key stakeholders; raising public awareness of international development; and internal communication. It is not possible to disaggregate figures for spending on this activity from overall budgets without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days of sick leave were taken by his Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216692]

Mr. Malik: Details for each of the years from 1997 are not readily available without incurring disproportionate costs.

Details of the three most recent financial years show that the total numbers of days lost to sick absence in the Department for International Development were:

	Number
2005-06	11,171
2006-07	9,001
2007-08	10,052

The latest civil service wide sickness absence report can be found at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to improve provision of education for girls in developing countries. [217135]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed to spending £8.5 billion over the next 10 years to 2015 in support of education in developing countries. We are supporting developing countries' plans, policies and programmes to ensure that girls benefit.

The UK Governments Department for International Development (DFID) works with partner governments to develop effective gender equality responses tailored to the needs of different country contexts. DFID's 2006 review of progress of the 2005 Girls' Education Strategy: "Towards a Better Future For All" reaffirmed commitments to strengthening our work on girls education to make a difference at country level and actions to support country-led strategies. These commitments relate to our work at international level through leadership and advocacy, and country level in participation with national governments, as well as our work with civil society.

Link to Summary of Girls Education 2005 Strategy:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/education/Girls-Education-summarry-FINAL.pdf

Link to 2006 Progress Report of Girls Education Strategy—copies of the progress report have been placed in the House Library:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/education/girls-education-progress-report.pdf

Our work with international and non-governmental organisations, particularly UNICEF and the United Nations Girls Education Initiative also help tackle social and economic barriers outside the education system that hinder girls' participation.

DFID support to international education statistics and the Education for All global monitoring report includes a focus on gender disaggregated statistics. New policy and knowledge work on education aims to address the focus on getting the use of broader gender and poverty data (i.e. house hold survey data), incorporated within standard international education statistics. We are also in discussions with UNICEF around opening up a pilot on gender and education statistics software to use by all partners.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to improve provision of family planning services in developing countries. [217136]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with developing country governments to accelerate access to sexual and reproductive health services. DFID is also providing significant resources to make sure that people have improved access to sexual and reproductive health supplies such as modern contraception and condoms. This enables women and men to make informed reproductive health choices. The UK's updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" emphasises the importance of integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights with actions to prevent new HIV and AIDS infections.

DFID is a strong supporter of the work of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) providing core support of £7.5 million per annum. We will also provide a total of £100 million between 2008-13 to support the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security. This will benefit the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and men in developing countries including access to life saving drugs and equipment to improve maternal health.

A copy of the updated strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Maternal Mortality

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the numbers of women dying during childbirth in developing countries. [217134]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) set out its priorities for action to improve maternal health in its 2004 strategy "Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action". This strategy guides DFID's approach to helping developing countries to improve the availability of and access to life saving services for pregnant women.

Progress on strengthening health systems in poor countries is also vital if we are to accelerate progress towards achieving the maternal health millennium development goal. This is why, along with other UN health agencies and a wide range of donors and country partners, DFID has championed the International Health Partnership designed to strengthen health systems and improve in-country donor co-ordination.

On 2 June, the UK Government's updated seven-year AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" was launched. This made several new financial commitments which included £6 billion over seven years to strengthen health systems and £200 million over three years to support social protection programmes.

A copy of the updated strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID also produces an annual report of its maternal health strategy "Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action". The third progress report is now available on DFID's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/maternal-health-strategy-report3.pdf

It includes a comprehensive assessment of DFID's actions, in partnership with developing country governments and with international organisations to reduce the number of women dying during childbirth in developing countries.

G8: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of whether G8 countries will achieve the 2010 commitment of $50 billion in extra annual development assistance. [216838]

Mr. Thomas: The Gleneagles Summit Communique estimated that annual Official Development Assistance (ODA) from all donors would increase by $50 billion, and ODA to Africa would increase by $25 billion, between 2004 and 2010. Over 90 per cent. of the additional ODA is committed by EU countries, who strongly reaffirmed their commitments at the European Council on 20 June. The G8 has also reconfirmed their commitments to these targets in the Tokyo Communique of 8 July.

International Development Association

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps were taken by the UK in order to secure the World Bank International Development Association's policy changes in 2007. [217039]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The changes to the policies of the International Development Association were unanimously agreed by over 50 delegates. The UK is satisfied with the outcomes which we believe will improve the World Bank's effectiveness in helping to reduce poverty, tackle climate change and achieve the millennium development goals in the world's poorest countries. Our satisfaction with the outcomes is reflected in the size of our contribution.

Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who will represent the UK at *(a)* the Millennium Development Goals meeting called by the UN Secretary General for September, *(b)* the Ghana Aid Summit in September and *(c)* the Financing for Development Conference in Doha in November. [216837]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Prime Minister plans to represent the UK at the Millennium Development Goals meeting called by the UN Secretary General for 25 September. To date Ministers have not decided on attendance for the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness nor for the Doha Financing for Development Review Conference.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what increased resources will be used to reward improved institutional performance, as referred to in his Department's latest departmental report. [217037]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Creating an effective international system is a priority for the Department for International Development (DFID). DFID has performance frameworks in place with 36 of our multilateral partners. These set out specific measurable goals and targets against which to monitor performance. DFID is increasingly using financial incentives, either as a positive incentive or as a sanction, in support of these performance management arrangements. To date, DFID has used performance related funding to encourage IDA, Regional Development Banks and UN agencies to address specific areas of poor performance.

For example, DFID recently concluded an innovative five-year agreement with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), creating incentives for UNRWA to deliver on its own efficiency targets. DFID adopted a multi-year funding strategy to encourage reform and reward good performance and put in place an additional £2 million performance contribution for financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, a £3 million performance contribution for years 2010-11, and £3.4 million for the final year of the arrangement.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes when it judges that an institution of government in a country receiving direct or indirect funding from his Department is performing inadequately on that funding. [217045]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) policy is that funding is only given to partner governments who share our commitment to (i) poverty reduction and achieving the MDG's (ii) human rights and other international obligations and (iii) improving public financial management and accountability.

If we doubt the partner government's commitment to any of these issues, then we reassess if funding is appropriate. If necessary, we may reduce or suspend aid, or deliver in a different way.

Examples of where funding has been suspended due to a breach in commitments to uphold human rights include in Pakistan where the state of emergency called in November 2007 meant suspension of certain human rights in the constitution. We suspended budget support. A second example is Kenya where we suspended all payments to the government following the disputed presidential election in December 2007.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which civil society organisations received funding under partnership programme agreements in 2006-07; what the expertise of each is; and what their specific subject areas are. [217227]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The following civil society organisations received funding under partnership programme arrangements in 2006-07: ActionAid; Action on Disability in Development; Aga Khan Foundation UK; International HIV/AIDS Alliance; Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD); CARE International UK; Christian Aid; Ethical Trading Initiative; HelpAge International; International Institute for Environment and Development; Islamic Relief Worldwide; International Service; Overseas Development Institute; One World Action; Oxfam; Panos Institute; Plan International UK; Practical Action; Progressio; Save the Children UK; Skillshare International; Transparency International; Voluntary Service Overseas; Water Aid; World Vision; WWF-UK.

The areas of expertise of these organisations and subject areas of the partnership programme arrangements are detailed on the Department for International Development's external website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/DFIDwork/ppas/partnerprogagreements.asp

Personal Injury

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the highest 10 payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by the Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [216681]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has settled no personal injury claims in the last 12 months.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 23 June 2008

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Social Exclusion

Phil Hope: I am delighted to tell the hon. Gentleman, if he has not heard already, that the Government are putting £1.8 billion of subsidy into maintaining the rural post office network and other networks.

[Official Report, 18 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 932.]

Letter from Phil Hope:

An error has been identified in an answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter) in the course of Oral Questions on 18 June 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Phil Hope: I am delighted to tell the hon. Gentleman, if he has not heard already, that the Government are putting £1.7 billion of subsidy into maintaining the rural post office network and other networks.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 26 June 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18 years in each year since 1997; how many police cautions were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [154984]

[Official Report, 1 October 2007, Vol. 463, c. 2352W.]

Letter from Vernon Coaker:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 1 October 2007. The table should have read as follows:

Retailers selling alcohol to those aged under 18

	Number of police cautions issued[1, 2]	*Average fine (£)*
1997	171	227
1998	76	212
1999	69	194
2000	53	206
2001	48	208
2002	59	249
2003	63	253
2004	101	237
2005	98	246

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative databases generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 30 June 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed by the Child Support Agency was in the last period for which figures are available. [203262]

[Official Report, 9 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 21W.]

Letter from James Plaskitt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 9 June 2008. The final paragraph should have read as follows:

"The Agency collected or arranged more than £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This is almost twice the £68 million of arrears collected in the year to March 2005 before the full introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan."

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors are taken into account by the Child Support Agency when calculating the repayment of arrears. [212802]

[Official Report, 23 June 2008, Vol. 478, c. 6W.]

Letter from James Plaskitt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig) on 23 June 2008. The final paragraph should have read as follows:

"The Agency collected or arranged more than £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This is almost twice the £68 million of arrears collected in the year to March 2005 before the full introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan."

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 3 July 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 392W, on Middle East: peace negotiations, what rank or grade is held by the seconded civil servants to Mr. Blair's office; what their combined salary and expenses costs have been; from what budget these costs are being drawn; what financial and logistical contributions have been made by *(a)* the United States of America, *(b)* Russia and *(c)* the European Union to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund to support the work of Mr. Blair and his office; and if he will make a statement. [168454]

[Official Report, 3 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 1056W.]

Letter from David Miliband:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 3 December 2007. The first paragraph should have read as follows:

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded: one higher executive officer equivalent; one Grade 7 equivalent; and one senior civil servant equivalent to work in the right hon. Tony Blair's office. The FCO is funding their salaries. It would not be appropriate to give salary details as to do so could reveal individuals' salaries."

HEALTH

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Inspections

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports of occurrences inconsistent with routine patient care were made to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority by Professor Alison Murdoch in each year of her tenure as an inspector; and how many serious incidents were reported to the Authority. [181154]

[Official Report, 6 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1256W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton (Jim Dobbin) on 6 February 2008. The table should have read as follows:

HFEA incident alert system: number of incidences handled since 2002-03[1]

	Number
2002-03	65
2003-04	79
2004-05	71
2005-06	140
2006-07[2]	173

Notes:

[1] Numbers cover all licensed clinics that have submitted a report.

[2] The most recent year for which a report has been published.

Source:

HFEA annual reports 2003-04 to 2006-07.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the document retention policy of the Commission is regarding original donation returns; what that policy was before 2004; and whether the Commission has destroyed any such returns. [211392]

[Official Report, 17 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 825W.]

Letter from Peter Viggers:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 17 June 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it retains all documents which it must retain by law or otherwise considers to be required for its current or future business needs. In July 2005 the Commission ordered the destruction of original hard copy donation returns from political parties from 2001 to 2003. The Commission has retained all original hard copy donation returns from political parties from 2004 onwards. The Commission has retained most original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2001 onwards and all original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2007 onwards. The Commission does not plan to destroy any other donation returns in the future.

The Commission is required to publish on its registers certain specific information from these donation returns. All of this information remains on those registers, whether or not the original return was destroyed. The registers are available to view on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/registers.cfm.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 9 July 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for her Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200017]

[Official Report, 2 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 538-39W.]

Letter from Hazel Blears:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 2 June 2008. The answer given was as follows:

Hazel Blears: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, c[illegible]mn 681W.

Between then and the end of the financial year, the Department has undertaken the following work from polling companies.

Andrew Irving Associates Ltd.

Quantitative survey on the Code for Sustainable Homes

Pre and post tracking research on the effectiveness of the 'Pull your Finger out' fire safety campaign

COI

Fire Safety Research into the Holiday Accommodation Sector

Fire fighting careers research and recommendations

Fire Kills Literature Review

Fire Kills campaign recognition omnibus survey

Workshops on the importance of the English language to building communities

Survey of planning professionals ab[illegible] whether Planning Portal services met their needs

Cragg Ross Dawson Ltd.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive research

Dorset County Council

Housing related research

GFKNOPLtd.

HIPs consumer awareness, qualitative, and omnibus research

Accountability of local council services omnibus survey

TH Seagrove

Telephone survey of tenant activists on their awareness etc. of landlords work in terms of the Respect agenda

IPSOSMori

Third tranche of 2007 employee survey and the production of aggregated results from the full 2007 employee survey

Senior Civil Service survey

Employee engagement workshops

The answer should have been: the only error/amendment is that Dorset County Council - Housing related research should not have been included.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207469]

[Official Report, 2 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 609W.]

Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 2 June 2008. The original figure for the number of payments for the Senior Civil Service was 19. The correct answer should have read:

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table.

	Total amount of bonus payments paid (£)	*Number of payments*
All staff		
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	424,480	204
Royal Parks Agency	10,200	20
Senior civil service	204,900	29

Notes:

1. The information has been amalgamated for the senior civil service as there are fewer than five senior civil servants in the Royal Parks Agency.
2. All staff includes those in the senior civil service.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 10 July 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of lessons in each school year were set in the latest period for which figures are available. [202073]

[Official Report, 29 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 420W.]

Letter from Jim Knight:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 29 April 2008. Within the table displaying the percentage of lessons set as observed by Ofsted in 2002/03, the percentage figure for key stage 3 should have read as 37, not 36. I would like to apologise for this error.

The correct answer is as follows:

Jim Knight: Ofsted collects data on the use of streaming and setting in lessons observed during inspections, the latest period for which their data indicate the proportion of lessons in each school year which are set by ability is 2002/03.

Lessons set as observed by Ofsted, 2002/03

	Percentage
Year 7	28
Year 8	38
Year 9	43
Key Stage 3	37
Year 10	37
Year 11	40
Key Stage 4	39
Overall Secondary	38

Until 2002/03, Ofsted recorded lessons observed during inspections as being set, streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, 'setting' is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term 'banding', which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

From 2003/04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and Ofsted now record data on whether classes they observe are mixed ability or set/streamed. They no longer record data on setting alone. It is therefore not possible to provide data on the proportion of lessons which are set for the period from 2003/04 onwards.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Poverty (Elderly People)

6. **Ann Winterton** (Congleton) (Con): If he will make a statement on trends in levels of poverty among the elderly. [216454]

[Official Report, 7 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 1139.]

Letter from Mike O'Brien:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) on 7 July 2008. The answer given was as follows:

Mr. O'Brien: I would have thought that the hon. Lady had informed her constituents that winter fuel payments will increase this year. There will be an extra £50 a week for those aged between 60 and 80 and an extra £100 for those aged over 80, bringing to £250 the amount that the Government provide to the elderly each year to help with their winter fuel bills. An extra £400 in winter fuel payments will be paid to those aged over 80. Indeed, we are going further than that by taking powers in the Pensions Bill, which is currently going through the other place, that will enable the data sharing of information with suppliers so that poorer pensioners can be put on to lower social tariffs, ensuring that they pay lower bills and get insulation. Warm Front has given 1.7 million homes assistance on insulation: an average of £2,700 has been provided to ensure that homes are insulated and fuel bills are kept down, so quite a lot is happening in this respect.

The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. O'Brien: I would have thought that the hon. Lady had informed her constituents that winter fuel payments will increase this year. There will be an extra £50 a year for those aged between 60 and 80 and an extra £100 for those aged over 80, bringing to £250 the amount that the Government provide to the elderly each year to help with their winter fuel bills. An extra £400 in winter fuel payments will be paid to those aged over 80. Indeed, we are going further than that by taking powers in the Pensions Bill, which is currently going through the other place, that will enable the data sharing of information with suppliers so that poorer pensioners can be put on to lower social tariffs, ensuring that they pay lower bills and get insulation. Warm Front has given 1.7 million homes assistance on insulation: an average of £2,700 has been provided to ensure that homes are insulated and fuel bills are kept down, so quite a lot is happening in this respect.